

L E T T E R S

FROM THE LATE REVEREND

JAMES HERVEY, A.M.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LADY FRANCES SHIRLEY,

LETTERS

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JAMES HERVEY, A.M.

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LORD FRANCIS SHIRLEY.

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L E T T E R S

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FROM THE LATE REVEREND

JAMES HERVEY, A.M. *K*

RECTOR OF WESTON FAVELL,

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LADY FRANCES SHIRLEY.

Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in
the name of the Lord Jesus; giving thanks
to God and the Father by him. Col. iii. 17.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED BY JOHN RIVINGTON, JUN.

FOR JOHN, FRANCIS, AND CHARLES RIVINGTON,
AT N^o 62, IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

MDCCLXXXII. *2*

LETTERS

FROM THE LATE REVEREND

JAMES HERVEY, A.M.

RECTOR OF WESTON HAVELL



For the name of the book, please refer to the
list of books in the library of the British Museum.

L O N D O N

PRINTED BY JOHN RIVINGTON, 10, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

For John Rivington, and Charles Rivington,

at No. 61, in St. Paul's Church-yard.

MDCCLXXIII

P R E F A C E.

THESSE Letters, upon the Death of LÁDY FRANCES SHIRLEY, came into the Hands of her Executors, who were highly pleased and edified with reading them. They shewed them to several of their Friends, and they were unanimous in desiring to see them published. They had a great Respect for their Judgment, and yielded to it for the following Reasons:

THEY thought Mr. HERVEY's true Character was more legible here, than in his printed Books: For he appears the same Admirer of JESUS in his Closet, as in his Pulpit—in his private Correspondence, as when writing for the Public. His Heart appears to have been devoted with fervent
Love

P R E F A C E.

Love to his divine Saviour. They could not doubt of this, who conversed much with him, who saw him at his Table, or heard him at his Prayers. But in these Letters here is fresh Proof. They breathe the warmest Sentiments of Gratitude, and demonstrate that the Love of GOD in CHRIST did actually influence his private, as well as his public Life and Conversation.

THE Editors acknowledge also, that they had a View to the Benefit of the Public. They had read these Letters with Pleasure and Profit. The Subject, of which most of them treat, had warmed their Hearts, and they had been the Means of kindling in their Breast the same heavenly Flame. They felt something of the Love of GOD in CHRIST. And they were led to hope and pray, that the Publication of these Letters might be blessed to others, as the Reading of them had been to themselves.

CHRISTIAN

P R E F A C E.

CHRISTIAN READER, they are put into thy Hands, that thou mayest profit by them; and if they prove the Means of doing thee any Good, give the Glory where it is due. Mr. HERVEY certainly intended this in writing them. You cannot peruse one Letter without seeing, that he aimed at this with a single Eye; and with the same Aim they are now laid before thee. If the blessed GOD please to make them acceptable and useful to his People, we have our Reward.

L E T-

P. R. F. A. C. E.

Christian Readers, they are put into
the hands of those who are
and if they prove the means of doing this
any God, give the Glory where it is due
Mr. Hall has very certainly intended this in writ-
ing them. You cannot but see that he
without feeling, that he aimed at this with a
single eye, and with the same aim they
are now laid before them. In the printed
God pleads to make them acceptable and
useful to his people, we have our reward.

LETTERS

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LADY FRANCES SHIRLEY.

LETTER I.

MY LADY,

SINCE I have wronged your Ladyship's Condescension and Generosity, by doubting whether my last Letter would be acceptable, I cannot forbear making the speediest Reparation possible. In this, I shall take a Liberty, which your Ladyship little expects. A Liberty, which will more than compensate my late unreasonable Diffidence of your Good-nature. — To hold your Ladyship no longer in Suspence, I shall take Leave to comment upon your valued and excellent Letter. Only assuring your Ladyship, that it is not to censure, but to admire; to express my own Satisfaction in it, and to confirm your Ladyship's good Resolutions from it.

B

You

You are pleased to speak of yourself as an *unworthy Object*, before the infinitely exalted GOD of all. I congratulate your Ladyship, on being enabled to think meanly of yourself; and most heartily wish, That neither the Splendour of any Thing that is great, nor the Conceit of any Thing that is good in you, may ever withdraw your Eyes from looking upon yourself as sinful Dust and Ashes. But how can your Ladyship entertain such self-abasing Thoughts, who have been accustomed to universal Admiration, and to shine even in a Court?—Perhaps, you will rather ask, How shall I persevere in this amiable and advantageous Temper, notwithstanding all the adulatory Insinuations, that may be whispered in my Ear?—Indeed, my Lady, this is a very important Inquiry. And the Answer is ready.—By meditating on the unspotted Holiness, and adorable Excellencies of the great GOD. On the Extent and Spirituality of his righteous Law. On the exceeding Sinfulness of Sin; committed by Creatures, who are surrounded with the choicest, choicest Favours both of Providence and of Grace.

You add, *Blessed be GOD for all his inestimable Mercies*.—Your Ladyship does right, to exercise Gratitude. A grateful Spirit is the most pleasing to our almighty Benefactor, and the most honourable to our holy Religion; it tends to render the Possessors most serenely happy, and to fit them for a continued Communication of divine Blessings.—Let me, therefore, entreat your Ladyship to cultivate

this ornamental and delightful Disposition. By frequently contemplating the free and boundless Goodness of your heavenly Father. His Goodness is altogether as immense, as his Power. It is great, beyond Words, beyond Thoughts, and can only be expressed in his glorious Gifts. And O! how marvellous, are these! He has given Himself to be your Portion—his Son to be your Propitiation—his Spirit to be your Guide—his Promises to be your Charter—and his Kingdom, his own celestial Kingdom, to be your eternal Inheritance. Well may we cry out, with the Prophet, in joyful Astonishment, “How great is his Goodness, and how great is his Beauty!”—I hope, your Ladyship will always beware of harbouring low and dishonourable Apprehensions of the divine Benignity.

You say farther, *That you read the Bible with great Comfort.*—Persist, my Lady, in this best of Studies. This is the Way, to enlarge Knowledge; to encrease Humility; to quicken Gratitude; to establish and improve every gracious Habit.—I need not expatiate on this Subject. If your Ladyship has tasted the Sweetness of this spiritual Manna, no Words of mine can give it a higher Relish.—I shall only beseech the ever-bountiful Dispenser of all Wisdom, “That the Word of CHRIST may dwell in your Ladyship richly.” Not only be perused, but sink into your Heart. Not only have a transient Influence, but dwell with an abiding Efficacy. And that, not scantily, but copiously, abundantly, *richly.*

THIS is one of the noblest Blessings I can wish for your Ladyship, at the Commencement of the *New Year*. This will render each revolving Year, happier than the preceding; and render all, a Preparation for, as well as an Introduction to, a blissful Eternity.

I HAVE communicated to my worthy Friend, the Message which your Ladyship was pleased to transmit. He is all Activity and Zeal to serve poor Mr. Browne. Like one thoroughly sensible, that yet a little while, and the Distresses of our Brethren, and all Opportunities of administering to their Relief, will be no more.

I FORGOT to return my thankful Acknowledgements to your Ladyship, for attempting to procure me a Scarf. I knew nothing of your Ladyship's being asked, when you was so good as to interest yourself in the Affair. And I beg of your Ladyship, not to bestow another Thought upon it. For, I assure you, I would rather decline, than solicit, such an Honour.

BUT, regardless as I am of that, I shall always desire the Honour, of professing and approving myself,

London,
Jan. 1, 1750.

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
and most obedient Servant.

L E T-

LADY FRANCES SHIRLEY.

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L E T T E R II.

MY LADY,

MR. Whitefield informed me, that your Ladyship was pleased to enquire after my Books, and was inclined to admit them into your Collection. Encouraged by this condescending Hint, they now wait upon your Ladyship, and beg the Honour of your Acceptance. This they would have done much sooner, but, being out of Print, I was under a Necessity of staying for the new Edition.

THEY wait upon you, my Lady, not with a View of detaining your Ladyship's Attention, one single Instant, from those inestimable and divine Volumes, the Holy Scriptures. But if, in some vacant Moment, when a Relaxation from sublimer Thoughts is requisite, they may be allowed to entertain your Ladyship, I shall think them highly privileged.

AND how happy shall I think the Author, if they may be a Means of raising in your Ladyship's Mind, a more frequent Advertence to, and more amiable Apprehensions of, the ever-present, the all-gracious GOD!—That GOD, whose transcendent Perfections shine through universal Nature; and are displayed, with infinitely superior Lustre, in the Redemption of Mankind by JESUS CHRIST!—That ineffably excellent GOD, whom to know, is the only Wisdom; whom to love, is the truest Happiness; and whom to enjoy, in his own heavenly and

everlasting Kingdom, is such a Felicity, as I cannot express, but shall most earnestly pray, that your Ladyship may possess. — This will be the most effectual, though a silent Way of testifying, with what sincere and profound Respect

I am,

London,
Feb. 4, 1750.

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
and most obedient Servant.

LETTER III.

MY LADY,

I HAD no other View, in taking Leave to present my little Books to your Ladyship, than to testify in the most expressive Way, how highly I honour your Ladyship, and how ardently I wish your Ladyship the unequalled Joys of Religion. Your Ladyship's Acceptance was the only Reward I coveted; joined with an humble pleasing Hope, of administering some serious and improving Entertainment, in one of your Ladyship's vacant Minutes.

SINCE your Ladyship has added, to your condescending Acceptance, a generous Present; and doubled it, more than doubled it, by that very obliging Manner, in which it was conferred; my Heart longs to be grateful. I know of no other Method, whereby I can express my Gratitude, than to act as your Ladyship's Almoner; and *make* to your Ladyship

ship Friends of this Mammon of Unrighteousness, which, when your Ladyship, at some very distant Period, fails, may receive you into everlasting Habitations.

I HAVE already promised some Cloaths to a poor but godly Man; Father of many Children, much afflicted with Sickness in his Family, and hardly furnished with necessary Apparel. I am certain, your Ladyship will approve of such a Practice; when it proceeds from a Sense of Obligation to that ineffably gracious Saviour, *who had not where to lay his Head.* Had not where to lay his blessed Head, till He hung upon the racking Cross, and laid it in the silent Grave.

IN the mean Time permit me to wish—What shall I wish?—What is the best Blessing, the noblest Treasure, that Heaven and Earth can afford? This I would wish for your Ladyship. And I find it beautifully styled, (Ephes. iii. 8.) *The unsearchable Riches of CHRIST.* I find it freely offered in those inviting Words, (Rev. iii. 8.) *I counsel Thee to buy of me Gold tried in the Fire, that Thou mayst be rich.*—This Treasure may the GOD of infinitely tender Mercy, the GOD of unbounded Beneficence, bestow on your Ladyship! And this comprehends

Pardon of Sin: of every Sin, be it ever so aggravated; of all Sins, be they ever so numerous. So entire a Pardon, that they shall be *blotted out as a Cloud*, and be as though they had never been.

An imputed Righteousness. That immaculate Righteousness, which the incarnate GOD wrought out, in

our Nature, and as our Surety. This is that everlasting Righteousness, which magnifies the Law, and makes it honourable. On Consideration of this Righteousness, GOD, though inflexibly just, yet justified the Ungodly. This is that fine Linnen, that *best Robe*, that *Marriage Garment*, spoken of in the Scriptures of Truth. In this your Ladyship may appear unblameable and irreproachable, even in the Court of Heaven, and before the Throne of Glory.

The Gift of the divine Spirit. Whose sacred Influences enlighten the Understanding, and renew the Heart, work Faith, and shed abroad Love; give Strength to overcome this present evil World, and make *meet for the Inheritance of Saints in Light.*—*The Riches of CHRIST* include *all the Promises.* Those GREAT *Promises*; those EXCEEDING GREAT *Promises*; those EXCEEDING GREAT and PRECIOUS *Promises*, which are contained in the Oracles of Inspiration. Which yield a copious Supply of present Consolation, and ascertain to Us the invaluable Reversion of eternal Felicity.

YOUR Ladyship will easily observe upon this Occasion, how amiable a Dispensation the *Gospel* is; which conveys all these inestimable Treasures. How beneficial a Duty *Prayer* is; which opens as it were, and stretches out the Hand, to receive these glorious Privileges. How desirable an Ordinance the *Sacrament* is; which seals, ratifies, and confirms them all to our Enjoyment.—That all, rich and incomparably excellent as they are, may be your Ladyship's

ship's happy, happy Portion, is and always will be,
both the unfeigned Desire, and earnest Prayer of,

My Lady,

Your Ladyship's most obedient,

most obliged, and truly grateful,

Monday Morning. humble Servant.

L E T T E R IV.

AND does your Ladyship insist upon my writing the Letter, You mentioned? I was in Hopes, your Ladyship, according to your usual Indulgence, would have with-drawn your Command, and dismissed me from the Task. A Task, to which my scanty Stock of scriptural Knowledge, is absolutely unequal. Otherwise, I should rejoice to execute it, both as it would be an Instance of Obedience to your Ladyship, and might be for the Honour of that invaluable Book; which is the Magazine of our Comforts, and the Charter of our Salvation.

LET me, my Lady, be treated like *Gideon's* Son. Judg. viii. 20. His gallant and courageous Father, bid Him draw upon the captive Kings, and sheath his Sword in their Hearts. The Youth, weak and timorous, like myself, hesitated and recoiled. The Hero, seeing and pitying his Timidity, released Him from the Office, and performed it Himself.—

Promising

Promising myself, that I also should be excused by your Ladyship, I really have not set about the Business. But, as your Ladyship is pleased to mention the Affair a second Time, I will, with my best Attention, consider the Point. And if—IF, my Lady, I can muster up, or the divine Teacher shall vouchsafe to suggest, any Thing worth your Ladyship's Notice; I will, with the greatest Pleasure, submit it to your Judgment.

I THINK, your Ladyship's Expostulations with Mr. R—— were pertinent, weighty, and closely urged. If He makes me a Visit, I shall, in *one* Particular, imitate your Ladyship's Example. Give not the least Hint, that I had the Honour of seeing You, or have had the Favour of hearing from You. But, in *another* Case, I question whether I shall be able to summon up Resolution enough, to copy after my Pattern. Or, should I attempt to speak roundly to Him, my Cheeks, pale as they are, would be encrimsoned. Instead of working Conviction in a Brother, I should suffer Disorder in myself. So tender are my Spirits! As I am sure, your Ladyship must perceive, by a certain Confusedness and Precipitancy in my Behaviour; quite contrary to that Ease and Serenity, which Every One must observe in your Ladyship. I know not how it is, but I cannot, either by the Exercise of my Reason, or even by an Advertence to GOD, rectify this Weakness.—But why, may your Ladyship ask, do I give You the Trouble of hearing this Complaint?
—Only

—Only with a View of demonstrating to your Ladyship, That nothing considerable can be expected from a Person, to whom, as the wisest of Men speaks, *The Grass-hopper is a Burden.*

I MUST not conclude, without making my Acknowledgments, for the Honour of your Ladyship's Company. For, an Honour it undoubtedly was, and such I shall always esteem it. Therefore, You may depend upon it, I shall mention it to no Body: until I want to have Oil poured upon a Flame, and the Pride of my Heart, which is already too great, augmented. I would improve your Ladyship's Condescension, and learn to see in a clearer and more affecting Light, my in-expressible Obligations to my great Redeemer. Who came from *the Habitation of his Holiness and his Glory*, to visit a poor, depraved, and condemned Creature.—Where-ever your Ladyship goes, You are sure to be received with the utmost Respect, But when the, all-glorious JESUS came into the World, He knew, that He should be *despitefully treated; be spit upon, and buffeted; be cruelly mocked, and severely scourged; be condemned to Death, and nailed to a Cross: Yet He came—with Chearfulness and Delight He came.* Since it was, to rescue Us from Ruin, and obtain eternal Redemption for Us.—Should We not say, with the Psalmist; *How dear are thy Counsels unto us,* O GOD! May a Sense of thy infinitely tender Goodness, be ever warm on our Hearts, and ever influential on our Lives! Till We are admitted

ted to see Thee, in thy own Kingdom: and love HIM with all our Souls, love HIM to all Eternity, who loved Us, and gave Himself for Us.

MAY *He keep* your Ladyship as the *Apple of his Eye*! keep you under the Shadow of his Wings! then You will be as safe and as happy, as can be wished by,

Your Ladyship's most obliged,

Wednesday Afternoon.

and most dutiful Servant.

LETTER V.

MY LADY,

I HAD the Pleasure of perusing your Ladyship's Letter to Mr. *Whitefield*. And must beg of your Ladyship, not to mention any such Thing as Obligation, when your Ladyship condescends to peruse my Letters, or accept my Books. Or, if your Ladyship thinks proper to mention the Word, that it may never be applied to your Ladyship, but always appropriated to me. For I shall always acknowledge it as a singular Favour, whenever your Ladyship permits me, either by my little Volumes or by a serious Epistle, to remind your Ladyship of a crucified REDEEMER, and of immortal Joys.

I AM debarred the Pleasure of waiting upon your Ladyship this Day by a Cough; which would probably

bably be encreased by my coming abroad, and would certainly make me troublesome to the honourable Company. — I cannot conclude, without wishing your Ladyship Abundance of Consolation and spiritual Advantage from the Ministry of my excellent Friend. — May his Word be sweetly efficacious on your Ladyship's Heart; and *drop as the Rain, distill as the Dew!* — May your Ladyship enjoy such Manifestations of the dying JESUS in the sacred Ordinance, as may enkindle adoring Love, and excite penitential Sorrow! — May all the Blessings of the new Covenant be sealed and inviolably confirmed to your Ladyship! that you may become *steadfast in Faith, joyful through Hope, and ever abound in the Works of the LORD.* — This will impart the highest Happiness to your Ladyship, and will reflect an unfeigned Satisfaction to

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
and most obedient Servant.

L E T T E R VI.

MY LADY,

YESTERDAY I had the Pleasure of receiving your Ladyship's Letter. — If my little Attempt was so happy, as to gain your Ladyship's Approbation, and confirm your Ladyship's Esteem for the Book of GOD, my principal Desire was answered.

answered.—I could not entertain the least Hope of being serviceable to the best Interests of so great a Genius. But I heartily wish, that the GOD of the Spirits of all Flesh may convince Him, by some abler Hand, and some more effectual Means.

MY Lord, however, shews a candid and generous Spirit. Especially, as I might be thought to have treated a favourite Character, perhaps, one of his intimate Acquaintance, somewhat too freely; though, I hope, not indecently or rudely.

AH! my Lady, if the Scriptures are a Delusion, where shall We seek our Happiness? In Wealth? 'Tis a splendid Encumbrance. In Honour? 'Tis a glittering Bubble. In the Pleasures of the World? They, like the Brine of the Ocean to a thirsty Palate, will irritate, rather than satisfy. In gay entertaining Company? This is only a temporary Opiate, not a lasting Cure. And 'tis well if, like an *Opiate* whose Power is spent, it does not leave the Spirits disordered, flattened, sunk. But in the precious Promises of the Gospel, and its renewing Energy on our Hearts; in the Discoveries of GOD's boundless Love to poor Sinners, in the Displays of CHRIST's infinitely free Grace, and in the Hope of his everlasting Glory; in these *grand Specifics*, for preparing and dispensing which Revelation has the *Patent*, the true Health, Ease, and Felicity of our Nature are to be found.

FOR this Reason, the Scriptures are called *Wells of Salvation*. David declares, in the LORD's Word
will

will I rejoyce, in the LORD's Word will I comfort me. And our most benevolent Redeemer assures us, These Things have I spoken, that your Joy might be full.—Let the Word of Christ, therefore, my honoured Madam, dwell in you richly. Dwell in your Hand; dwell in your Heart. And give me Leave to wish, that you yourself may dwell under the Defence of the most High, and abide under the Shadow of the Almighty.

I AM this Day going to remove, with my Brother's Family, to Tottenham. But if your Ladyship is pleased to honour me with any Commands, they will, by being transmitted to *Miles's Lane*, be sure to find

Thursday Morning.
Miles-Lane.

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
and obedient Servant.

L E T T E R VII.

MY LADY,

WILL You permit my Pen to wait upon and to condole with your Ladyship on the Loss, which the Nation has sustained? A serious Letter at such a Juncture, may be no more unseasonable than a Suit of Mourning, now the Prince royal lies a pale extended Corpse; and He that was Heir to the Crown, "inherits Worms and creeping Things."

THOUGH

THOUGH I wish your Ladyship may long enjoy, even in this inferior State, every Honour that ennobles the Character, and every Pleasure that refines the Affections; yet give me Leave to point out to your Ladyship a far more excellent Inheritance, than all the Kingdoms of the World.—This is displayed before Us, in that inexhaustible Magazine of Truth, the Scriptures. This is consigned over to Us, in that inestimable Charter of our highest Privileges, the Bible.

THERE, my Lady, the true Christians are constituted *Heirs of the Promise*. GOD, says the Apostle, willing more abundantly to shew unto the *Heirs of Promise* the Immutability of his Counsel, confirmed it by an Oath. Heb. vi. 17. An Inheritance this, not like the precarious Possessions of Earth; which Thieves may steal, Inundations may destroy, or Flames consume: But, which is firm as the strong Mountains, and stable as the everlasting Hills. For, though *all Flesh is* (fading as) *Grass*; and *all the Goodliness thereof*, all its Splendour, its Dignity, and most admired Accomplishments, *as the Flower of the Field*; which is still more tender, and much sooner withereth than the Grass itself: yet, *the Word*, the promising Word, of our GOD *endureth for ever*. Nay, though Heaven and Earth pass away, this shall never fail. The Felicity it offers, is more lasting than the Universe; is lasting as Eternity.

TRUE

TRUE Christians are *Heirs of Salvation*. Thus they are styled by the Herald of the great King. Who, speaking of those exalted Creatures the Angels, adds; "Are they not all ministering Spirits, sent forth to minister for Them, who shall be *Heirs of Salvation*?" Heb. i. 14.—What are all the Patrimonies that Parents can bequeathe, or all the Preferments that Monarchs can bestow? Could they be ascertained to their Possessors for a Multitude of Years; yet they are empty; they are unsatisfactory; and no more able to content the Desires of an immortal Soul, than a few Drops of the Summer-shower are sufficient to fill the vast Cavities of the Ocean. But Salvation is a Portion, large as our Wants, boundless as our Wishes; and commensurate to all our Capacities of Happiness. Salvation comprehends that *Pardon* of Sins, which blotteth out the Hand-writing of Condemnation, that is against Us. It comprehends that *Justification* of our Souls, by which We have Acceptance before the GOD of Heaven. It comprizes that *Sanctification* of the Heart, which renews Us after the divine Image; and that *Hope* of eternal *Glory*, which gives Us the true Enjoyment of this Life, and some sweet Anticipation of the next.

TRUE Christians are *Heirs of a Kingdom*. For thus are they distinguished, if not in the Offices of Heraldry below, yet in the nobler Records of the Court above. In them, they are dignified with the illustrious Character of Kings and Priests. "Unto
 C " Him

“ Him that loved Us, and washed Us from our
 “ Sins in his own Blood, and *bath made Us Kings*
 “ *and Priests unto GOD.*” Rev. i. 5, 6. And the
 Judge of the World, when He assigns an eternal
 Reward to the Righteous, vouchsafes to address
 them in this glorious Manner; “ Come, ye blessed
 “ of my Father, *inherit the Kingdom* prepared for
 “ You from the Foundation of the World.” A
 Kingdom, whose Magnificence and whose Delights,
 receive not their Measure from our Deserts, nor
 even from our Thoughts; but are proportioned to
 the immensely rich Goodness of the most High
 GOD, and to the unspeakably precious Merits of
 JESUS CHRIST.—True Christians, my Lady,
 are *Heirs of GOD, and joint Heirs with CHRIST.*
 Rom. viii. 17. But what Eye can survey the Ex-
 tent of this Inheritance? Or what Words can de-
 scribe its Richness? ’Tis great as the infinite JE-
 HOVAH, and glorious as his transcendent Excel-
 lencies. It consists in the Vision of his Majesty,
 and the Fruition of his Godhead: in the delightful
 Sensations of his unutterable Love, and a complete
 Conformity to his most holy Image.

How! my Lady, O! how should We admire,
 adore, and love that most amiable of Beings, that
Prince of the Kings of the Earth, who, to procure
 for Us this blissful Inheritance, humbled Himself to
 Death, even the *Death* of the Cross!—That your
 Ladyship may be established in the Hope of this
 heavenly Heritage, and abound in the Love of its
 ever-

ever-blessed Author, is the frequent and the earnest
Prayer of,

My Lady,
Your Ladyship's most obliged,
and most dutiful Servant.

Miles's Lane,
March 25, 1751.

L E T T E R VIII.

MY LADY,

I AM grieved, I assure You, and ashamed to think, that I do not, with Delight and Gratitude, accept your Ladyship's Invitation, and promise to wait upon your Ladyship on Saturday.—Am I then such a fullen and reserved *Cynic*, so insensible of your Ladyship's Condescension, and of the Honour I might do myself?—However faulty in other Respects, I beg of your Ladyship to believe me blameless in this Particular. It is not Inclination, but a Constitution, tender as the Foam, brittle as the Bubble upon the Waters, that is my Bar.—Would your Ladyship suspect it? I have put on my Coat, but once during all the Winter. And then I returned Home with a Cold, and was obliged to take to my Bed. So very much has my late violent Disorder impaired a Habit of Body, extremely enervated before!—My poor Heart, that is naturally

fond of Activity, and would fain exert itself for the blessed Redeemer's Glory; that is peculiarly charmed with the Works of Creation, and knows no higher Entertainment, than a contemplative rural Excursion; is sometimes apt to repine, at being cut off from its favourite Gratifications. But I desire to check such un-submissive Emotions; and rest satisfied in a chearful thankful Assurance, That what the all-gracious GOD ordains, is incomparably better than I could chuse for myself.—Let the Voice of Murmuring, therefore, be entirely suppressed. Complaints, be ye for ever banished from my Lips. Let the *Praises of my GOD be upon my Tongue*, and let *all that is within me bless his holy Name*.—And I shall have a very endearing Obligation to bless his infinite Goodness, if He is pleased to make the weak Productions of my Pen, acceptable to your Ladyship's Taste, and beneficial to your best Interests. To get Wealth by One's Writings, is a perishing Acquisition. To win Fame, is a splendid Delusion. But, to further the Comfort and Salvation of a Fellow-Creature, of a Friend, an honoured, and highly-esteemed Friend, this is Gain indeed. If, (ten thousand Ages hence, when I have the Pleasure of seeing your Ladyship in the Realms of Glory) I may be permitted to reflect, that, as your Ladyship honoured me with your Notice on Earth, I was in some *low, little* Degree instrumental to establish your Faith in CHRIST, and encrease your Joy in the LORD, how will it transport me

with Gladness!—Pardon me, my Lady, if there is Vanity in the Thought. There is, I am persuaded, a surperior Proportion of Affection and Duty.

YOUR Ladyship will perceive from the preceding, that I have received the Favour of your last. And though I cannot have the Honour of waiting on your Ladyship, I shall not cease to pray, that You may have the noblest, the divinest Being, not a Visitant only, that turneth in to tarry for a Day; but a Guest, to dwell perpetually in your Heart. This is his own Promise, to them that seek his Presence, and love his Name; *I will come unto You, and make my Abode with You, and manifest myself unto You.* And have we not Reason to love HIM, who *has Pleasure in the Prosperity of his Servants: Who is exalted that He may have Mercy upon Us, and waiteth that He may be gracious unto Us:* Who says—and they are the most charming Words, that ever were uttered—AS THE FATHER HATH LOVED ME, SO HAVE I LOVED YOU. I wish, your Ladyship would give me your Sentiments of the last Passage. For I must confess, I know not how to express myself on the Occasion. I can only wonder, admire, and adore. O! that it should be SO done to Worms, to Dust, to Sinners! Who can forbear weeping, for their Insensibility of such Love, and their Ingratitude to so infinitely tender a Saviour? Who would not delight to remember Him? Delight to have Communion with Him? Long, above all Things,

to please and glorify Him on Earth, and have the Fruition of his glorious Godhead in Heaven ?

MAY this be the Portion of your Ladyship, and of Him who has so frequently the Satisfaction and Honour of subscribing Himself,

Your Ladyship's most obliged
and dutiful Servant.

L E T T E R IX.

MY LADY,

I BEG Leave to assure your Ladyship, that I am far from expecting any Acknowledgements, or hoping to receive Letter for Letter. I want only to be satisfied, that my sincere Concern for your Happiness, is not reckoned *impertinent*, may not be altogether unacceptable, when it puts you in Remembrance of CHRIST JESUS, and eternal Ages. For I am perfectly sensible, that there is a Time to be silent, as well as a Time to speak ; and that it is no impossible Thing, for Zeal to be more officious, than prudent. And as I would not be defective, in my Gratitude, so neither would I be offensive, in the Manner of expressing it.

I FORGOT to beg your Ladyship's Pardon, for mentioning the Affair of Mr. ———. But, by mentioning it only to my dear Friend, I thought I had

had not transgressed your Ladyship's Injunction. However, the last Letter with which you honour'd me, neither is shewn, nor shall be communicated, to any Body. Especially, the concluding Sentence : which, had it related to Any but myself, I should have ventured to say, is no ignoble Character ; yet, not without wondering, that your Ladyship had Courage to avow it. O ! may the LORD of all Lords give you to taste the Comforts, that flow from an Union with the blessed JESUS ; and to see the Honours, that are intended for the Children of GOD ! Then, Madam, your Ladyship, will acknowledge the *One*, to be abundantly richer than all the Inhabitants on Earth ; the *Other*, to be incomparably nobler than all the Honours of Birth, of Titles, or of Royalty itself.

When the Bells tolled, and the Guns fired, in order to introduce his royal Highness's Corpse, with melancholy Solemnity, to its long Home, was not your Ladyship much impressed ? Surely, every Stroke of the Bells, and every Discharge of the Cannon, had a Meaning ; and spoke aloud the Psalmist's Admonition : "*O ! put not your Trust in Princes, nor in any Child of Man, for there is no Help in them. For, when the Breath of Man goeth forth, He shall turn again unto his Earth ; and then all his Thoughts perish.*" If Princes cannot be relied on, where shall we repose our Confidence ? Is there None, of whom we may say, " Under his Shadow we shall be safe ?"—There is, my Lady, there is. And, in

the next Verse, the Prophet directs Us to the glorious Object, *Blessed is He, that hath the GOD of Jacob for his Help, and whose Hope is in the LORD his GOD.* HE is not impotent, perishing, or of a precarious Existence; but the great and everlasting I AM: *who made Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and all that therein is.* Who is as faithful also, as He is powerful, and *keepeth his Promise for ever.* Never failing his People, in any, in every, Time of Need.—May your Ladyship be established in His Favour, and filled with His Love! May HE be your Shield on Earth, and your exceeding great Reward in Heaven!

DID not your Ladyship recollect, upon the same Occasion, that ever dear and infinitely illustrious Person, who laid down his Life for Mankind? That *Prince of Heaven, and Prince of the Kings of the Earth*, who once became a pale, bloody, and mangled Corpse for all our Sins! He died, alas! He died, not reclined on a royal Bed, but nailed to the cursed Tree: not by a natural Disease, but by the tormenting Hand of the Executioner: not with sympathizing Friends about Him, but in the Midst of infamous Felons, and surrounded with cruel Mockings. He died (surprising to relate, yet comforting to believe!) under the Wrath of GOD, and the Curse of the Law. And thereby delivered Us from every Evil; obtained for Us un-utterable Good.—O! that our Hearts may be affected, towards our all-gracious crucified Redeemer; as *Xenophon's Armenian*

menian Princess was, towards her generous Consort! Your Ladyship, I presume, has heard the Story; therefore I only hint at it, but do not fatigue you with the Narrative.

THOUGH our divine Master died, amidst such disgraceful Circumstances; his Almighty Father honoured his Obsequies, with the most magnificent *Regalia of Mourning*. The Heavens were hung in Sackcloth, and the Sun was covered with a Veil. The Foundations of the Earth shook, and impenetrable Rocks burst asunder. The very Graves opened, and the mouldering Dead arose. The Veil of the Temple rent, and the in-accessible Place, the Holy of Holies, was disclosed to public View.—And wherefore all these awful and august Formalities, attendant on the expiring JESUS? Doubtless, to roll away the Reproach of the Cross; to attest the un-equalled Dignity of his Person; and the complete Sufficiency of his Atonement.—They were designed to tell the inattentive World, That the sacred Sufferer was none other than IMMANUEL; GOD and MAN, in one wonderful Person. MAN, that He might be capable of dying; GOD, that He might overcome and abolish Death. MAN, that He might be qualified for Suffering; GOD, that his Sufferings might be immensely meritorious; able to take away the Guilt, not of a single Criminal only, but of ALL Ages and ALL Nations, from the Beginning to the End of Time.—Have we not then, my Lady, the utmost Reason to say? Blessed,
for

for ever blessed be GOD, for this unspeakable Gift!

I HAVE been too tedious : The charming Subject, and your Ladyship's Candour, must plead for my Prolixity. My Health is so very precarious, and my Constitution so enervated, that I scarce ever am able, and am always unfit, to wait upon your Ladyship. I have often found Pleasure, in visiting the poor Tenants of the meanest Hut, where I had an Opportunity of talking on heavenly Things. How much more should I be delighted, in an Admission to your Ladyship's Company ; where I should hear the same favourite Topics discoursed on, with all the Refinements of Politeness and superior Sense ! But extreme Weakness, and great Languor, disqualifies me for the Enjoyment of this Satisfaction. —However, I shall often have the pleasing Satisfaction, of praying for your Ladyship's abundant Happiness ; and sometimes, I hope, you will allow me the Honour, of subscribing myself,

Your Ladyship's, most respectful,

April 14, 1751. and sincerely grateful humble Servant.

LET-

L E T T E R X.

MY LADY,

WHEN I received the Honour of your Ladyship's Commands, I hope, your Ladyship was safely arrived at Twickenham, and very much refreshed with your Ride.

MR. C——, my Lady, is not at London, nor is expected in Town. As I don't know Him, I have not enquired much about Him. But, I think, I have heard Somebody say, That He preaches at ———; and that one Mr. ——— is to supply at the Tabernacle, during the Absence of my dear Friend. So that, if We are to stay for the Favour of your Ladyship's Company, till Mr. ——— is upon the Spot, I fear, it will be — not like your Ladyship's Readiness to do Good, quite speedy — but, like your Ladyship's Disposition to resent, very, very slow.

I THINK, your Ladyship's Preference of the Country to the City, at this delightful Season of the Year, is perfectly well-judged. Nature, rural Nature, is now in her Prime. The Air is full of Fragrance. The Trees are putting on their verdant Honours. Every Haw-thorn Bush will soon be a Nosegay. Every Orchard is profusely splendid with Blossoms. The Fields are rich with springing Corn, or gay with golden Crowfoots, and silver Daisies. The Lambs bleat, the Linnets sing, and a Concert warbles

warbles from every Grove.—If Nature has so many Charms ; how inconceivably excellent and glorious is Nature's all-mighty Author !

I HOPE, your Ladyship will see double Beauty, in the blooming Scenes of Creation, by seeing a benevolent and adorable DEITY in them all. The Sun, shining in his brightest Lustre, will clearly display his Creator's Magnificence. I trust, You will be able to read the same Lesson, by the Moon's fainter Lamp, and the twinkling Tapers of the Stars.—Will not every murmuring Brook, and every melodious Bird, whisper in your Ladyship's Ear, That the LORD is gracious, and has Pleasure in the Satisfaction of his Servants?—Will not every fragrant Gale, and every balmy Breeze declare, How free the Communications of his Grace are, and how reviving a Sense of his Love is?—Does not each Flower, that enamels the Garden, or embroiders the Mead, bear Witness to the transcendent Perfections of its Maker ; and woo (if I may use the Expression) your Ladyship's Affection for the infinitely amiable GOD?—When to all these sweet Inducements, is added the Gift, the inestimably precious Gift of his dear Son ; who can resist such heavenly Goodness?—Ten thousand Delicacies, to regale our Senses ; the Blood of CHRIST, to expiate all our Guilt ; the Influences of a divine Spirit, to sanctify our Souls, and make them meet for Glory : is not this super-abundant Liberality? Enough to captivate every Heart ! And
would

would captivate them, was not human Nature deplorably corrupt!

MAY every Object remind your Ladyship of these pleasing Truths! May they be lively, efficacious, and instrumental to work in your Mind that happy Temper, which the Apostle beautifully describes, and which is the very Essence of true Religion. Speaking of JESUS CHRIST, He adds — *Whom, having not seen, Ye love; in Whom, though now Ye see Him not, yet believing, Ye rejoyce with Joy unspeakable, and full of Glory.* 1 Pet. i. 8. When We live under the Power of *this benign Religion*, it will be *Spring* in our Souls. Conscience will be serene, as the Summer Sky. Holy Desires, will bud and blossom as the Rose. The Voice of Joy and Gladness, sweeter far than the Nightingale's Song, will sooth our Hearts. And Prospects, incomparably finer than the visible Creation yields, will entertain and charm the Eye of our Faith. — May your Ladyship be blessed with an abundant Share of this Happiness! which will be a very desirable Addition to the Happiness of,

My Lady,

Your Ladyship's most respectful,

April 26, 1751.

and most dutiful Servant,

L E T.

LETTER XI.

MY LADY,

PERMIT me, by this Paper-Messenger, to enquire after your Ladyship's Health, and to transmit my sincerest Wishes, for the Continuance of this and every other Blessing.

WHEN I had the Honour of writing to your Ladyship some Time ago, I mentioned a delightful Passage of Scripture; which, I hope, will be written on your Memory, and spread its sweet Influence through all the Powers of your Mind. As Characters cut on the living Bark, which not only abide, but grow wider and wider with succeeding Years.

"*Whom having not seen, Ye love.*"—The Cause of this sacred Affection another Apostle points out: "We love HIM, because HE first loved US." Loved Us with a *marvelous Loving-Kindness*—with a Love, that passeth Knowledge. As will evidently appear, if some of its wonderful Circumstances be considered.

To *Whom* it was exercised.—To noble, to worthy? No; but to fallen and sinful Creatures. Whose Hearts were Enmity against the blessed Redeemer, and his holy Law.—Who deserved Vengeance, and were altogether become abominable.

By *Whom*.—By a Mortal, like Ourselves? By the highest Arch-Angel?—By HIM rather, whom all the Angels adore; who spoke the World into Existence;

Existence; and who upholdeth all Things, by the Word of his Power.

How it was exercised.—Did He look kindly? Speak graciously? Or help Us with his Hand?—These were the smallest of his most merciful Vouchsafements.—He bowed the Heavens, and took our Nature. He humbled Himself lower still, and bore our Guilt.—HE, that sits on the Throne of Glory, was stretched on the cursed Tree, and laid in the gloomy Grave.

How distinguishing it was.—There is a Species of Beings, nobler in their Original, than the human Race. *These* violated the holy Commandment. But did *These* find Mercy?—No Pity is shewed to *Them*, while un-measurable Compassion is extended to *Us*. *They* sink into endless Perdition, while *We* are snatched, as Brands, from the everlasting Burning. *They* are pursued with Thunder-Bolts of Wrath, while “Mercy embraceth *Us* on every “Side.”

WHAT He procured for *Us*.—He procured for *Us* a Deliverance from the Guilt of Sin, by his great Atonement; and a Deliverance from the Tyranny of Sin, by his blessed Spirit. He procured for *Us* the matchless Honour, that *We* should be called the Sons of GOD; and the inestimable Privilege, that *We* should become the Heirs of Glory.—But indeed, it is impossible for a Letter, or for a Volume to declare, what the divine Redeemer has obtained for his People. All the Promises of Scrip-
ture

ture—all the Joys of Heaven—all the Perfections of the Godhead—all, ALL are the Portion of Believers, and the Purchase of IMMANUEL's Blood.

SHOULD We not be grieved, my Lady, that We have loved this infinitely gracious Benefactor no more? Should We not desire above all Things, to love Him more ardently for the future? Or, can I form a better Wish for your Ladyship, more expressive of a grateful Heart, than that a Sense of this exceeding great Love of GOD our Saviour, may be shed abroad in your Heart? May be refreshing, exhilarating, delightful to your Soul, *as the Shadow of a great Rock in a weary Land*.—It is the Prophet *Isaiah's* elegant Comparison: the present State of the Weather, will often bring it to your Remembrance—and I hope, the GOD of all Power and Goodness will give You to know what it means, by happy, happy Experience.—To his infinitely rich and everlasting Mercies I commit your Ladyship, and beg Leave to profess myself, with the greatest Sincerity, and with equal Respect,

My Lady,

Tottenham,
June 7, 1751.

your Ladyship's,
most dutiful Servant.

P. S. Would not a good *Micro-scope* be a refined and improving Companion for some of your Ladyship's rural Hours? I bless the Providence of GOD for that curious Instrument; which has discovered
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so much of his incomprehensible Wisdom, his amazing Power, his condescending and most profuse Goodness, even in the minutest Specks of the animalcula Creation. This would render the Fields and Gardens, an in-exhaustible Fund of Entertainment. This would shew you Wonders of Mechanism, of Symmetry, and Decoration, in what We usually disregard, as the Refuse of Nature. It would raise, I believe, the most venerating and truly amiable Ideas of the Almighty Creator; and help to tune the Soul for that Song of the four and twenty Elders; *Thou art worthy, O LORD, to receive Glory, and Honour, and Power: for thou hast created all Things, and for thy Pleasure they are, and were created.*

L E T T E R XII.

MY LADY,

I HAVE heard my Brother talk of *doing Honour to a Bill*: which, I think, consists in speedy Payment. I should not do proper Honour to a Line from your Ladyship, if I did not gratefully acknowledge it, by the first Opportunity. The Reason of (what You may apprehend) my present Delay, is, That I did not receive your Ladyship's Letter;

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which

which was written on Friday, till the Thursday following.

I REJOICE to hear of the peaceful State of your Ladyship's Mind. May the GOD of Peace and Love, encrease it ever more and more! and make all Blessings abound to you *according to his Riches in Glory by CHRIST JESUS!*—*Great Peace*, says the Psalmist, *have They that love thy Law.*—*Thou shalt keep Him in perfect Peace*, says the Prophet *Isaiah, whose Mind is stayed on Thee.*—*HE is our Peace*, adds the Apostle, speaking of our divine Redeemer.—From which Passages We learn, That the Way to obtain that Heart-felt Peace, which the Smiles of the World cannot give, nor the Frowns of the World take away, is, To be exercised in GOD's holy Word; to rely on his boundless, boundless Mercy; through the infinitely precious Merits of his dear Son.

I HAVE not had the Favour of a Line from Lady Huntingdon, for some Months. When I was at London, to see Mrs. Whitefield on her Return from Bristol, she told me that the good Countess's Health was very much restored by the Waters. That she was (to use her own Expression) charmingly well. I hope, this Amendment continues; and wish, it may be perpetuated.

I CONGRATULATE your Ladyship on the Happiness of a benevolent Spirit, that delights in doing Good, and in prompting Others also to Acts of Munificence. Go on, honourable Madam, and be
rich

rich in good Works. For the ever-faithful GOD has said, *The liberal Soul* (not barely executeth, but) *deviseeth liberal Things; and by liberal Things shall He stand.* And the all-gracious IMMANUEL has declared, *It is* (not blessed only, but) *more blessed to give, than to receive.* I am sure, He put in Practice his own Precept. What was his Life, but a Series of diffusive Charity? What was his Death, but the very Triumph of divine Goodness? O! for a Heart inflamed with his Love, and conformed to his Image! Let the One be the Motive, and the Other the Model of your Ladyship's Generosity. Then, will it be *a sweet-smelling Savour, acceptable to GOD through JESUS CHRIST.*

SHOULD I ever come near Twickenham, I shall find a very peculiar Pleasure, in paying my Duty to your Ladyship. Or, was I in any tolerable State of Health, nothing could detain me from taking a Journey on Purpose. But if I should never enjoy that refined Satisfaction, let me beg to be remembered sometimes in your Prayers: as, I think, I may truly say, that I never recollect your Ladyship's amiable Name, without imploring for you *All the Fulness of the Blessings of the Gospel of CHRIST.* — To his tender and everlasting Compassions I commend your Ladyship, and beg leave to subscribe myself,

Tottenham,
June 27, 1751.

Your Ladyship's much obliged,
and most dutiful Servant.

LETTER XIII.

MY LADY,

THE little Piece mentioned in my last, having received no Orders to the contrary, takes Leave to wait upon your Ladyship. I make no Apology for its Meanness, but rather plead this Circumstance, as a Recommendation to your Acceptance. It would not become me, to offer any Thing costly. That might look like a vain Attempt, to bring your Ladyship under some Obligation. Whereas, when such a very Trifle is presented, it will evidently be a Condescension and a Favour, if your Ladyship pleases not to disdain it. As such I shall acknowledge your Admittance of this Pamphlet to your Perusal; wishing, at the same Time, and not neglecting to pray, That the LORD of all Power and Might, may in this, as He does in ten thousand Instances, produce great Good, by the slightest Instruments.

Will your Ladyship allow me to propose a *Motto*, for that little Treasury of spiritual Wealth? which, I hope, has reached you before this, and been honoured with your Acceptance? It is a *Motto*, not unworthy to be transcribed by your Ladyship's own Hand; and I will venture to add, not unworthy to be written on your Heart. May the Divine Spirit perform the one, while your Ladyship's Pen executes the other!

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It is to be found Heb. vi. 17, 18. In which excellent Portion of Scripture, three Points of distinguished Importance are to be observed.

To Whom the Promises belong. To Those, who fly for Refuge to the blessed JESUS. Fly from the Curse of the Law; from the Accusations of Conscience; from the Apprehensions of everlasting Vengeance—fly, not to their own Integrity, their own Reformation, or their own good Works: but to the infinitely precious, the all-justifying RIGHTEOUSNESS and DEATH of CHRIST. *These* Persons are the Heirs of Promise. To *These* belong their unsearchable Riches. Among *These* may your Ladyship enjoy an eminent Station!

For what Purposes, the Promises are given:—For the most noble and the most gracious: *That We may be Partakers of a divine Nature*, according to St. Peter. *That We may have Consolation, strong Consolation*, according to St. Paul. They are intended to be the Means, of imparting the highest Improvement, and conveying the richest Happiness. In both these Respects, may they be signally efficacious to your Ladyship!

How firmly these Blessings are ascertained to the true Believer. Ascertained by nothing less, than the Word and the Oath of JEHOVAH Himself. And how strong is this Security! How sure is this Title! “Heaven and Earth may pass away, but “not one Jot of the divine Word shall pass away.” If this be said of GOD’s Word; what shall We

say, when He ratifies his Word by an inviolable Oath? What, but admire the condescending Goodness of the LORD, and be ashamed, be grieved, for the unreasonable Unbelief of our own Hearts? What, but rejoice in the Certainty of our Trust, when grounded on the Promises, and looking unto JESUS?—Can the GOD of Truth be capable of a Lye? or will the GOD of Holiness forswear Himself? Impossible. If then We daily, hourly, incessantly fly to our adored Mediator's Righteousness; it is equally impossible, that We should be disappointed of our Hope, when We humbly wait for the Accomplishment of the Promises.

WHEN I have the Pleasure of writing to your Ladyship, I am apt to exceed the Limits of a decent Length, But I hope, I assure myself, you will be so candid, as to ascribe it wholly to that sincere Zeal for your Ladyship's present and eternal Happiness, which actuates the Heart, and prompts the Pen of,

Tottenham,
Aug. 1, 1751.

Your Ladyship's much obliged,
and most dutiful Servant,

LET.

L E T T E R XIV.

MY LADY,

ACCORDING to my Promise, the first Letter I write, after my Recovery, is a Letter of grateful Acknowledgement for your Ladyship's Favour. Recovery did I say? That is too flattering a Word. For though my Hand is able to hold a Pen, my Feet are not able to carry me across the Room, without some borrowed Support.—Indeed I have been extremely ill: hovering upon the very Brink of Eternity. The Doctor was twice sent for by a special Messenger, from an Apprehension that my Dissolution was approaching.

You will probably be desirous to know, How my Mind was affected, amidst such Circumstances of Peril and Pain.—The Pain too often disturbed my Advertence to the gracious GOD, and interrupted my Application to his ALMIGHTY MAJESTY. Ah! how unwise is it, rather how desperately hazardous, to defer the great Work of Reconciliation with our Creator, to a languishing and dying Bed! When the Anguish is frequently so strong, that it quite shatters the Thoughts, and renders them incapable of attending to any Thing but the Load of Affliction.

WITH regard to Death, I humbly bless the divine Goodness, I was under no terrifying Appre-

hensions. It was desirable, rather than dreadful. The Thing that I longed for, rather than deprecated. A believing Contemplation of GOD's infinitely rich Mercy, of CHRIST's unspeakably meritorious Atonement and Righteousness, enabled me to say with the Apostle, *O Death, where is thy Sting! O Grave, where is thy Victory?*—How great then is the Efficacy, and how precious should be the Interests, of that holy Religion; which could support the weakest of Creatures, when all earthly Succours failed: and could give Courage to the most obnoxious of Sinners, even when summoned to his final Trial!

LET Us labour, my honoured Lady, to be rich in Grace, and strong in Faith; for We know not, what trying Times may be at Hand. We are sure, the End of all Things is near, and the Judge is at the Door. O! let us daily get a clearer Knowledge of the all-sufficient Redeemer, a firmer Establishment in his Merits, and a growing Conformity to his Image. 'Tis CHRIST that unstings Death. 'Tis this glorious Captain of our Salvation, that emboldens Us to triumph over that last Enemy. Old Simeon, having the Child JESUS in the Arms of his Flesh, and the promised Mediator in the Arms of his Faith, can go down to the Chambers of the Grave with a peaceful Tranquillity.—Of the Saints, in the Revelation, it is said, *They overcame by the Blood of the Lamb.* Overcame what? Not only the Temptations of Life, but the Terrors of Death,

Death, and the Fear of eternal Judgment. They overcame All, by a believing Application of their Saviour's Death. — *St. Paul*, in that inestimable Chapter the viiith to the Romans, seems to anticipate the Arrival of the great Day; seems to sit down, and examine, what will be the Issue of the last Trial, with regard to Himself. After a mature Consideration, He rests assured, that He shall be absolved, when He is judged. And *why?* Because of his own good Works? No: but because of GOD's free unmeasurable Grace, and CHRIST's immensely valuable Propitiation. Fixing his Hopes solely on this Foundation, He dares even to defy every Enemy of his Salvation. *Who shall lay any Thing to the Charge of GOD's Elect?* It is GOD that justifieth. *Who is He that condemneth?* It is CHRIST that died; yea rather that is risen again; who is even at the right Hand of GOD, Who also maketh Intercession for Us. — May such sweet Portions of Scripture be the Solace of your Ladyship's Heart, during the Years of Prosperity; and the Support of your Soul, when the Day of Adversity takes Place!

You are pleased to ask, What I am going to publish? — I was writing a little Treatise upon some of the most important Doctrines of Christianity: to be disposed partly into Dialogues, partly into Letters; and rendered entertaining by several descriptive Pictures in Nature and its ever-pleasing Scenes. — I have sketched out the greatest Part, in a rough

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un-connected Manner. But a considerable Time will be requisite, to dispose it properly, and polish it for the nice Taste of the present Age. This Time, whether it will please the sovereign Disposer of all Things, to allow: or whether my Constitution, always very infirm, but now more exceedingly enervated, will yield a sufficient Supply of animal Strength, is a great Uncertainty. But of this, my Lady, We are absolutely certain; That whatever un-erring Wisdom and infinite Mercy orders, must be good, must be best.

LET me not forget to thank your Ladyship for the singular Honour You intended to do me, by favouring me with a Visit; and the high Pleasure You intended to give me, by your delightful Conversation. I ought to be thankful for the Intention, though Circumstances deprived me of the Satisfaction.

IT is impossible for me, my Lady, to ascribe your Silence to any such Motive as your Humility mentions. I assure your Ladyship, I shall acknowledge it as a Favour, and I shall enjoy it as a Pleasure, if You give me Leave sometimes to enquire after your Welfare by a Letter, and to *stir up your sincere Mind by Way of Remembrance.*

I KNOW not how to conclude this long Epistle with a more respectful Propriety, than by turning what I have just been reading, into a Prayer: *That You may receive not the Spirit of the World, but the Spirit of GOD, that You may know the Things which*
are

are freely given Us of GOD in CHRIST JESUS,
Which Prayer, while it drops from the Pen, comes
warm from the Heart of

Tottenham,

Sept. 23, 1751.

Your Ladyship's most dutiful,
and ever grateful Servant.

T E T T E R XV.

ANOTHER Prince dead, my Lady! What then is Grandeur? How vain is Power! How insignificant Honour! Since neither One, nor All, can preserve their royal Possessor from the Pit of Corruption. — *Cease Ye from Man*, says the Voice of Scripture; *cease Ye from Man*, says this renewed Demonstration of human Frailty; Man, *whose Breath is in his Nostrils*. For, wherein is He to be accounted of? — Not so, *the Prince of Peace, the Prince of the Kings of the Earth*, the divine REDEEMER. He indeed was once dead for our Sins; but now liveth for evermore. Liveth, to be the Comfort, the Happiness, the Joy of his People. — O! that your Ladyship may every Day improve in the Knowledge, the Faith, the Love of that inconceivably excellent Saviour! — Then will You never want a Companion, a Guide, an omnipotent Guard, through all the Dangers of this evil World. For, though Friends should be cut off, though All should forsake You, yet will not He, *Lo! I am with You always*, is his kind,

kind, his faithful Declaration, *even to the End of the World.*

I RECEIVED the Honour of your Ladyship's Letter. Which was peculiarly welcome; not only as it brought me a Proof of your Health, but as it was an Evidence of your *continued*, or rather *growing* Regard to CHRIST JESUS, and Concern for everlasting Things. — Indeed, everlasting Things are our only grand Concern; and CHRIST JESUS is our only valuable Portion. *Vanity* has long ago been written on all other Acquisitions, all other Enjoyments. And whenever Death weighs them in his Scale, they are sure to be found wanting.

You mention the joyful and happy Exit of an amiable young Lady. — A Lady; and a young Lady; to triumph over the King of Terrors! See, what Faith can do! Out of Weakness it makes strong. The timorous, inspirited by Faith, fear no Evil; are bold as Lions. — Therefore, the Apostle in his most beautiful Description of the Christian Armour, says, *ABOVE ALL take the Shield of Faith.* This defends, while We stand; and makes Us Conquerors, even when We fall. This strengthens our Hands, while We live; and emboldens our Hearts, when We die. Let Us therefore, be particularly diligent to obtain, and equally careful to cultivate, this important and inestimable Grace.

It is said, I remember, of the gallant *Epaminondas*, That when He was dangerously wounded in
 8 Battle,

Battle, his Soldiers carried Him, fainting and senseless, to his Tent. But, the Moment He recovered the Use of his Reason, He asked, *whether his SHIELD was safe?* — His chief Sollicitude was, That his *Shield* should not fall into the Possession of his Enemy. And *our* chief Sollicitude should be, That We may obtain a true Faith; and, when it is obtained, that it fail not. — If We are strong in Faith, We shall give Glory to GOD, and receive Comfort to our own Souls. Whereas, if Faith languishes, it will affect our spiritual Life, as a pining Atrophy consumes the Body, or as a keen Blast withers the Leaves.

I INTENDED to have added some Considerations, that might serve as Food to cherish, or as a Cordial to revive, our Faith. But the Remnant of my Paper betrays the Prolixity of my Letter. These You will give me Leave to reserve for the Subject of another Epistle; which, I hope, will have your Ladyship's Permission, to follow this very speedily. — In the mean Time, it shall be the frequent and the pleasing Employ of my Mind, to express my Gratitude, by turning my Exhortations into Prayers, that the blessed, all-gracious, immensely merciful GOD, may fulfil in your Ladyship *all the good Pleasure of his Will, and the Work of Faith with Power.* — I cannot forbear expressing my Concern, that your Ladyship should command me to commit to the Flames, what always gives me peculiar Delight. In Letters of common Intercourse, no One expects

expects that Regularity of Method, and Accuracy of Style, which may be necessary in Preparations for the Press. For this Reason, I hope, You will revoke the Sentence passed upon your own; and in this View always consider, and as constantly excuse those of,

My Lady,
Your Ladyship's most dutiful
and faithful Servant.

Tottenham,
Oct. 17, 1751.

L E T T E R XVI.

MY LADY,

IN my last, I begged Leave to write once more upon the Subject of *Faith*. In this, I look upon my Request as granted; and make Use of the Permission, which I then solicited.

THAT We may have a comfortable, steady Faith in *GOD's Love*; let Us often meditate on his stupendous Kindness in giving his Son — his only Son — his infinitely beloved Son — who was dearer to the eternal Father, than all Angels, than all Worlds, and all Heavens — in giving HIM, to take our inferiour Nature, and to bear all our Guilt. — *Now I know that Thou fearest me*, said GOD to *Abraham*, seeing *Thou hast not with-held thy Son, thine only Son from me*. And may We not, with equal Propriety
and

and Certainty, say? Now We know, that the LORD almighty loveth Us; seeing He hath not with-held his Son, his only-begotten Son, but freely given Him up for our Salvation.

THAT We may have Faith in *CHRIST's Merits*; let Us often meditate on his infinite Dignity. — He is higher than the Heavens, and beyond all Imagination glorious. — The Principalities and Powers in heavenly Places, cast their Crowns at his Feet. — What speaks more than ten thousand Letters, or ten thousand Volumes could express, *In Him dwells all the Fulness of the Godhead bodily.* — O! how immensely precious must be HIS Righteousness! How all-sufficient the Propitiation of HIS Death! How can We fail of Pardon? How can We doubt of Acceptance? If We are interested in his divinely excellent Merits.

To have a firm and delightful Trust, that these Merits are *revealed* to Us; that these Merits (incomparably precious as they are) *belong* to Us; let Us meditate on such Portions of Scripture: *HE came into the World to save* — Whom? The upright and unblameable? — Then We might indeed despair — But He *came into the World to save Sinners.*
1 Tim. i. 15.

————— O! rejoice

With more than common Joy, and set it down

In Gold on lasting Pillars. SHAKESPEARE.

Was there no other Discovery of free Grace in all the Bible, than this single Text; it would render
that

that blessed Book, the most inestimable Treasure in the World. But, Thanks be to the divine Goodness, there are Multitudes of these charming Passages. — *HE poured out his Soul*, says the evangelical Prophet, *Isai. liii. 5.* — for Whom? For the faultless and unblameable? No; but *for Transgressors*: who had nothing to recommend them to his Mercy, but their Guilt and Misery. — *He died*, adds the Apostle, *1 Pet. iii. 18. the Just for the Unjust.* Yes, my Lady, that transcendently just and holy One, *laid down his Life*, that He might *justify the Ungodly.*

ARE We not Ungodly? Are We not Transgressors? Are We not, both by Nature and by Practice, Sinners? — Your Ladyship, I hope, will excuse the Freedom of my Speech. Nay, I am persuaded, your discerning Judgment would blame my Unfaithfulness, and be displeased with my Conduct, if, on religious Points, I should make those Distinctions of Honour, which, on other Occasions, I shall always observe. — I venture therefore to say again, Are We not Ungodly? Are We not Transgressors? Is not the Sinner's Name, our unquestionable Character? If so; CHRIST came into the World to save *Us*. He poured out his Soul, to expiate *our* Iniquities. He died upon the Cross, that *We* might reign in Glory. — For this, We have GOD's own Word, his most express Word, his frequently repeated Word. And Heaven and Earth may pass away, sooner than one Jot or Tittle of his Word shall fail.

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LET US then, revolve these Truths in our Minds, not without intermingled Prayer to our Father in Heaven. And may that mighty, mighty GOD who stretched out the Heavens, and laid the Foundations of the Earth, say unto Us, Your Faith shall be established. — Did I not often breathe these Wishes, and often turn these Wishes into Prayers, I should be unworthy the Honour of professing myself,

Tottenham,
Oct. 29, 1751.

Your Ladyship's
most obedient and dutiful Servant.

L E T T E R XVII.

YOUR Ladyship's Favour was received, and your Commands are obeyed. The Letters, with which your Ladyship was pleased to honour me, are committed to the Fire. That consuming Element has done to them, what, I trust, the atoning Blood of CHRIST has done to our Sins. Who can recover the Papers, which the Flames have destroyed? They are, as though they had never been. So it fares with the Iniquities of true Believers: who *had fled*, who *do fly*, for Refuge to the Hope set before them, in the precious Propitiation of their dying LORD. They are obliterated and clean *done away*. *They shall not be mentioned unto them*, neither will their GOD *remember them any more*.

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I AM

I AM just come to London. Providence has brought me and my Brother's Family safe to Miles's Lane.—The first Letter I wrote, after my Recovery from Sickneſs, was to pay my Duty to your Ladyſhip. And the firſt Uſe I make of my Pen, after my Return to Town, is, to tranſmit my grateful Acknowledgements. This I delayed, till my Arrival here; that, in caſe your Ladyſhip ſhould honour me with any Commands, they might not be conveyed to a wrong Place.

I ONCE heard Mr. Romaine preach. He choſe for his Text, that very important and equally comfortable Scripture; *Being juſtified by Faith, We have Peace with GOD through JESUS CHRIST our LORD.*—From which He ſpoke upon our Saviour's vicarious Sufferings, and vicarious Obedience. Their abſolute Neceſſity, and their complete Sufficiency for our Juſtification.—I think, He touched upon the tranſcendent Excellency of the Bible. I well remember, He directed Us to the Illumination and Influence of the DIVINE SPIRIT; in order to underſtand its heavenly Meaning, and feel its ſacred Efficacy.—Points of the laſt Importance to our Happineſs! I heartily wiſh Him abundant Succeſs, in explaining and enforcing them to his thronged Auditories. And with no leſs Sincerity I wiſh, that your Ladyſhip may become, every Day, more thoroughly, more experimentally, more habitually acquainted with them.

I HAVE

LADY FRANCES SHIRLEY. 51

I HAVE no News, relating to my dear and excellent Friend, who is gone to found the Silver, the more than golden Trumpet of the Gospel, through our *American Colonies*.—Dr. S——— informs me, that a Letter is arrived from Dr. Doddridge, with an Account, That the Doctor is very ill at a Village in the Neighbourhood of Lisbon. He thinks, We shall never see Him any more in England. The Departure of such valuable Persons, should tend to wean Us from the World, and endear Heaven to our Affections. *Beza* said, when He was told of *Calvin's* Death; “ Now I have a
“ fresh Motive, to be as a Stranger on Earth, and
“ to set my Affections on Things above.”

I INTENDED to have resumed the Subject of my last, and to have made Faith, what the Apostle styles *precious Faith*, the Subject of my Epistle. But I must be content to wait for this Satisfaction, till my Paper-Messengers are admitted to another Audience by your Ladyship.—You are pleased to enquire after my Health. Indeed, my Lady, it is like the Leaves that remain, scarcely remain, on some bleak-situated Elm. Your Ladyship's, I hope, will long continue, fresh and lively as the Ever-Green. And may the Dew of heavenly Benediction abide, both in Summer and in Winter, on your Branches!—I beg Leave to subscribe myself

London,
Nov. 7, 1751.

Your Ladyship's
most dutiful Servant.

LETTER XVIII.

MY LADY,

I CONFESS myself ashamed, that your obliging Favour of the tenth Instant, should continue so long without my grateful Acknowledgements. I hope, your Ladyship will ascribe it to the true Cause, the many Infirmities that oppress my poor Constitution. I put off even this agreeable Office from Day to Day, flattering myself that the ensuing might restore my Spirits, and make my Pen less unfit to pay its Duty to your Ladyship.

I AM extremely glad, if my superficial Letters on the Subject of Faith, were in any Degree acceptable to your Ladyship. I have forgot the particular Contents; but am assured, both the Writer and the Writing are very much obliged to your Candour.—One Thing, I believe, should have been added; namely, That Faith is *pretious* in its *Fruits*. It is no dormant, but an active Principle. As Light never ceases to issue from the Sun, or Waters from a perennial Fountain; so, a holy Conversation, and a purified Heart, are the inseparable Effects of a true Faith. *Those* will always be more exemplary, in proportion as *this* is more lively.

FAITH is characterised by the inspired Penman, as *working by Love*. This is its happy Tendency, and this its generous Language;—"Has CHRIST
" been so inconceivably gracious to me? Surely
" then

“ then I should be kind to my Fellow-creatures,
 “ and to his People.—Has He born all my Sins on
 “ the Tree of his Cross? Then let me bear with
 “ Patience, the Disappointments which Providence
 “ may ordain; and bear with Meekness, the Disre-
 “ spect which my Neighbours may offer.—Has He
 “ clothed me with the Robe of his immaculate
 “ Righteousness? How gladly then should I cloath
 “ his poor Servants with the Fleeces of my Sheep,
 “ and accommodate them with the Superfluities
 “ of my Wealth!—Has He purchased Life and
 “ Immortality for so despicable a Creature, so vile
 “ a Sinner? Surely then I should be zealous to
 “ glorify his blessed Name: should employ my little
 “ Stock of Talents, to magnify his Majesty, and
 “ further his sacred Cause.”—In this Faith may
 your Ladyship grow *exceedingly*.

I bless GOD for giving your Ladyship Peace
 and Tranquillity of Mind. It flows from this
 sweet Persuasion, that GOD is our reconciled Fa-
 ther, and CHRIST our all-sufficient Portion.
 This is what may be called in Mr. Pope's beautiful
 style—

The Soul's calm Sun-shine, and the Heart-felt Joy.

This is that *Kingdom of GOD*, which is not
Meat and Drink, consists in nothing external; but
 is *Righteousness, and Peace, and Joy in the Holy*
Ghost: Is a State of Peace and of holy Joy, wrought
 by the Influences of the Holy Ghost, and founded
 upon the transcendently excellent Righteousness of

our LORD JESUS CHRIST. I cannot close this Paragraph, without breathing the Apostle's emphatical Prayer; *May the LORD of Peace give You Peace always by all Means!*

DULL and dark Times, as your Ladyship observes, very probably will take their Turn; in order to shew Us the Depravity that is in our Hearts, and the utter Impotence of our Nature; in order to endear the blessed JESUS to our Affections, and teach Us our in-expressible Need of his Merits.—But, even in such Moments, let Us not be cast down. For, He who is the good Shepherd has promised, *That nothing shall pluck Us out of his Hand.* He who is inviolably faithful has declared, *That having begun a good Work, He will perform it even unto the End.* He who is infinitely powerful has assured Us, *That all these Things, instead of obstructing our Salvation, shall work together for our Good.*—Were We left to our own Strength, We should infallibly be overcome and perish. But this is our Security, We have an ADVOCATE in Heaven, *who ever liveth to make Intercession for Us.*—How willingly could I expatiate upon this delightful Topic! But I must desist. May I be permitted to make it the Subject of a Letter, which, if I live, will wait upon your Ladyship with the Congratulations of the ensuing Solemnity?—In the mean Time, I shall not cease to adore the GOD of all Grace, for rendering my little Books, in the smallest Measure, serviceable to your Ladyship; and shall
implore

implore (O! that I could do it more effectually!) every Blessing for your Ladyship, which my Gratitude can suggest, which your own Heart can wish, and which CHRIST has obtained for his People. In the Sincerity of these Words, I beg Leave to Subscribe myself,

Your Ladyship's

Miles's Lane, most obliged
Nov. 17, 1751. and dutiful Servant.

L E T T E R XIX.

MY LADY,

GIVE me Leave to enquire after your Ladyship's Health; and with my Enquiry to transmit my sincerest Wishes, that this, and every other Blessing, may be communicated, confirmed, and perpetuated to your Ladyship's Enjoyment.

WHEN writing to your Ladyship, I would select the most pleasing, the most noble, and the most improving Subject. None that I can recollect, is more eminently possessed of all these Qualities, than the Topic touched upon in my last. Which is therefore styled by the Apostle, *precious Faith*. 'Tis precious, my Lady, with Respect to its Origin—its Object—and its Fruits.

Its *Origin* is divine. If you look for its *Pedigree*, it is to be found in Heaven. It is wrought in the Soul, not by the mere Force of Argument, not by any human Ability, but by the mighty Power of GOD, called, for that Reason, *Faith of the Operation of GOD*. The *Arm of the LORD* is said to be revealed, exerted with almighty Energy, in order to make Sinners believe, with all their Hearts, the Report of the Gospel. Of this St. Paul reminds his Philippian Converts, *To You it is given*, as a singular Favour from above, *to believe on CHRIST*. — Often therefore, my Lady, let Us implore this Blessing, from the beneficent Bestower of all Good. Often let Us make that humble Confession, and dart up that ardent Petition; *LORD, I believe: help Thou mine Unbelief!*

Its Object is JESUS CHRIST. And who, or what so precious as CHRIST? None but CHRIST, None but CHRIST, was the frequent and favourite Profession of a certain holy Man. *Whom have I in Heaven, but Thee, O blessed IMMANUEL?* was the Language of David, And there is None upon Earth, that I desire in comparison of THEE. St. Paul accounted all Things but Dross, for the Excellency of the Knowledge of CHRIST JESUS his LORD. — For indeed HE is the Beloved of the FATHER, and the Hope of all the Ends of the Earth. In HIM are hid ALL the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge, together with unsearchable Riches of Grace and Righteousness. HE is, in his

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Person,

Person, and all his Offices, wonderful, matchless, and adorable.—I cannot close this Point more properly, than by turning St. John's Declaration concerning Himself and his Fellow-christians, into a Prayer for your Ladyship and Myself. May the GOD of all Goodness give Us an Understanding, enlightened by his blessed Spirit; *that We may know HIM that is true*, the true Center of our Souls, and the true Source of our Happiness. May We also *be in Him that is true, even in his Son JESUS CHRIST*; united to Him by a living Faith, as the Scion is engrafted into the Tree, as the Members are incorporated with the Head.—Should any One ask, Why We so earnestly desire this Union? What Advantage can result from its taking Place? The next Words are an Answer. *This is the true GOD, and eternal Life.* This Person, is a Person of infinite Dignity, and none less than very GOD. This Knowledge, is a Blessing of unspeakable Worth, and nothing less than everlasting Felicity.

I PERCEIVE, I must not only close the preceding Point, but conclude my Letter also, with this important and glorious Text. And it gives me a Pleasure to consider, that mean as the Letter is, what it quotes is invaluable: though the Arrow be of Lead, it is tipped with Gold; with something worthy of your Ladyship's Acceptance, and suited to that Respect, Esteem, and Gratitude which are due to your Ladyship, from

Miles's Lane,
Nov. 23, 1751.

My Lady,
your most obedient Servant.
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LETTER XX.

MY LADY,

I BEG Leave to return my Thanks to your Ladyship, for the Trouble You have taken in finding out and transmitting the Passage of Scripture, which You was pleased to mention, when I had the Honour of your Ladyship's Conversation. It is fully pertinent to the Purpose, for which it was produced. It proves, beyond all Dispute, That the Temple was built by Solomon on *Mount Moriah*. But I question, whether this is a satisfactory Proof, that our LORD JESUS CHRIST was not crucified on the same Hill.

THERE might be a large extensive Mountain, whose general Title was *Moriah*, while some particular Eminence was distinguished by the Name of *Calvary*. Probably, between this and the Temple, the Walls of the City intervened. If so, Criminals destined to Execution, might go without the City; might be put to Death on *Calvary*, and yet suffer on *Moriah*. As GOD is sometimes said to have delivered the Law on *Horeb*, sometimes to have delivered it on *Sinai*. We have sometimes an Account, that *Moses* died on *Nebo*, sometimes that He expired on *Pisgah*. And neither of these Accounts are contradictory: because, the former Names express the whole mountainous Range; the latter signify some one remarkable Cliff.

SINCE

SINCE I wrote the foregoing, I have consulted Mr. Maundrell's Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem; whose Determination is as clear, as his Authority is unquestionable. "*Calvary*, says He, is "a small Eminency or Hill upon the greater Mount "of *Moriah*. It was anciently appropriated to the "Execution of Malefactors, and therefore shut out "of the Walls of the City, as an execrable and "polluted Place."

WILL your Ladyship permit me to lay aside the Critic, and act the Christian? To make one Observation on that illustrious Sufferer, to whom the Mention of *Calvary* naturally leads our Thoughts. — How we pity the poor Criminals, that lie under Sentence of Death in the Cells of *Newgate*! We are apt to say within Ourselves, We would not be in their Condition for the whole World. How then should We be lost in Wonder, and transported with Gratitude, on every Remembrance of the blessed JESUS! Who came from the Heaven of Heavens, on purpose to be led out to Execution; resigned his Royal Throne, on purpose to hang on the accursed Tree. And by this most gracious, yet most tremendous Expedient, has delivered Us from everlasting Infamy and Torment! Surely, We must relinquish true Politeness, We must cashier all that is amiable and of good Report, if We forbear to love, or cease to please, so infinitely compassionate a Redeemer.

YOUR

YOUR Ladyship will have Multitudes to compliment You on the present Season, and wish You a *merry Christmas*. Give me Leave to wish You *all that Joy*, which the Prophet felt, when he cried out with a delighted Ardour; *To Us a Child is born! To Us a Son is given!* All the Glories of Heaven, unite in his wonderful Person. All the Happiness of Eternity, is the Fruit of his meritorious Incarnation, Obedience, and Death.

I AM in Doubt, now I have written these Lines, whether I shall presume to put them into your Ladyship's Hand. Nor am I certain, that the Message You was pleased to send in good Mr. *Whitefield's* Letter, either requires or justifies such an Address. But to breathe out my best Wishes, and turn them into frequent Prayers for your Ladyship, this, I am assured, can never be unbecoming

Your Ladyship's much obliged,
most humble servant,

L E T T E R XXI,

MY LADY,

PERMIT me, amidst the Multitudes that will wish your Ladyship a happy Christmas, to add my most sincere Congratulations on the joyful Occasion. — I congratulate You also on a Sentiment, which

which was expressed in your Ladyship's last Letter. May it be more deeply engraven on your Heart Day by Day! I well remember the Substance, though your Ladyship's strict Command has obliged me to destroy the original Words. They were to this Effect; *I know and feel, that I am not able to do the least Thing, as of myself.* — I bless GOD, for giving your Ladyship this Conviction. This Sense of human Weakness, disposes Us to wait for the Operations of divine Power. This is one Part of that Poverty of Spirit, to which is promised the Kingdom of Heaven, or all the Blessings of the glorious Gospel. These are the Persons, that will *look unto CHRIST*, as the wounded Israelites to the brazen Serpent: will *fly to CHRIST*, as the Manslayer of old to the City of Refuge: will *receive CHRIST*, as the condemned Malefactor receives a Pardon, or the ruined Bankrupt an Estate. They will be thankfully satisfied that HE has done all *for* them: earnestly desirous, that CHRIST should *do* all in them: and fully content, that CHRIST should *be* all to them: all that can any Way relate to the infinitely important Work of Salvation.

SINCE then We *have* nothing, and *can do* nothing of Ourselves; have We not Reason to rejoice in the Blessing, which is now commemorated? *For unto Us a Child is born, unto Us a Son is given, and the Government shall be upon his Shoulder: and his Name shall be called WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR,*
THE

THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

A SAVIOUR so GREAT, that the *Government is upon his Shoulder* : the Sceptre of supreme Authority is in his Hand ; He has uncontrollable Power in Heaven and on Earth ; and is *Head over all Things to his Church*.

So *glorious*, that his *Name is called Wonderful* : He is GOD and MAN, in one matchless and marvellous Person ; dwelling in a Tabernacle of Clay, yet possessed of all the Fulness of the Godhead ; like *Jacob's Ladder*, whose Foot was fixed on Earth, while the Summit was lost in the Skies.

So *gracious*, that He is the *Counsellor* ; to instruct Us by his holy Word ; to enlighten Us by his blessed Spirit ; and make Us wise unto everlasting Salvation.

THE MIGHTY GOD : to subdue our Iniquities ; to put his Laws into our Hearts ; and make Us Partakers of the divine Nature.

THE *Prince of Peace* : reconciling Us to his Father by his Death ; making Peace by the Blood of his Cross ; and thereby laying a Foundation for that Peace, which the World cannot give, and which passes all Understanding.

THE *everlasting Father* : to cherish Us under the Wings of his Providence and Grace ; to make all Things work together for our Good ; and prepare for Us an Inheritance — even the Inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

UN-

UNSPEAKABLY precious Blessings! May your Ladyship, by a true Faith, appropriate and be interested in them all! May You be enabled to say, with the undoubted Heirs of the Promise, *To us a Child is born! To us a Son is given!* — All-sufficient, ever-blessed, immensely kind Redeemer! May your Ladyship rejoice in Him, *according to the Joy of Harvest; and as Men rejoice, when they divide the Spoil.* As the Husbandman rejoices, when He reaps his Harvest, and gathers in the Fruit of his Toil: as the Soldier rejoices, when He has vanquished his Enemy, and is enriching Himself with the Prey.

I should have written upon another Subject. The grand Solemnity of the Season diverted my Thoughts. My Engagement, if your Ladyship pleases, shall be performed in another Letter. In the mean Time, I very willingly own, my Pen is in your Ladyship's Debt; but not half so much as my thankful Heart, for all the Favours which your Ladyship has conferred on,

My Lady,

Miles's Lane,

Your most obedient,

Dec. 24, 1751.

most dutiful Servant.

LET-

LETTER XXII.

MY LADY,

I HAVE the Pleasure of presenting your Ladyship, on the Commencement of the new Year, with one of the most distinguishing and noble Privileges of Christianity, *The Intercession of CHRIST*. Which, in whatever Light We view it, is a most comfortable Doctrine : but, when considered in its full Extent, is an inexhaustible Source of Consolation. To do this, will be the pleasing Employ of your Ladyship's own Meditations. To hint a few of its leading Properties, will be Business enough for the present Letter.

Who is it, that intercedes?—JESUS CHRIST the RIGHTEOUS. In whose Mouth there was no Guile. Who did always those Things, which were pleasing to his heavenly Father. —If Men, that are encompassed with Infirmities, pray and prevail. How much more prevailing must *his* Intercession be, who is “ holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from Sinners,” in his Nature, in his Heart, and in all his Conversation.

To *whom* He prays. — To his own Father. Who declared by a Voice from Heaven his entire and infinite Complacency in so glorious a Son. If the poor Widow made Suit to an unjust Judge, and was heard : how assuredly may We conclude, that our blessed Advocate is heard, when He intercedes
in

in our Behalf, with his own Father — with our Father — with the Father of everlasting Compassions ?

What He pleads. — He pleads his own Merits.

His Intercession is founded on his Oblation. Therefore it is said, *His BLOOD speaketh better Things, than the Blood of ABEL.* Which Text, at once, points out the Nature, and proves the Efficacy, of CHRIST's Intercession. He does not intercede by prostrating Himself before the Throne, or making any verbal Supplication. But his very Appearance in Heaven, as a Lamb slain for Sinners, is a silent, a powerful Plea. As the Blood of *Abel* had a Voice, and cried aloud for Vengeance on the Murtherer. So, the Blood of JESUS has a Voice in the Ear of GOD, and cries more loudly for Pardon, for Grace, for every spiritual Blessing, in behalf of his People. If the Blood of one Saint cried with such a forcible Importunity: O! what un-paralleled, what unknown Success must attend the Cry of HIS Blood, who is King of Saints, and the Cause of all Sanctity !

For what He prays. — In his last solemn Address to his almighty Father, He gives Us a Specimen of his Intercession, and a Sample (if I may use the Expression) of the Blessings He implores. He prays — That We may be *sanctified by the Truth* — That We may be *kept from Evil*: the Evil, that is in the World; and the Evil, that is in our Hearts — That We may be *one*: perfectly united to our divine Head, by a true Faith; and to One Another, by cordial

Love

Love — That We may *be with Him, where He is,* and see his Glory, and rejoyce in his Joy.

How often He intercedes — Moses interceded for the *Israelites*, while they were in the Valley, fighting with *Amalek*. But He could not continually carry on that important Work. Whereas, our HIGH-PRIEST ever liveth to make Intercession for Us. There's no Intermiſſion of his Suit. — When ſome foreign Ambaſſadors came, pretty early in the Morning, to have an Audience with *Alexander*; they were told, “ His Maſteſty was not ſtirring.” Upon which, they expreſſed ſome Surpriſe, that a Potentate, who had ſo many, and ſuch momentous Affairs to manage, ſhould ſleep ſo long. The King, hearing of their Obſervation, ordered them to be informed; That, “ though *He* ſlept, “ *Parmenio* waked.” And though We ſleep, though We forget, too often forget Ourſelves, and our adored Redeemer: HE, the great Keeper of *Israel*, neither ſlumbers, nor ſleeps; never, never forgets either Us, or our Interests. Nay, when We ſin through the deplorable Infirmary of our Nature, He ſtill appears in the Preſence of GOD for Us.

For whom He intercedes. — This is an Inquiry of the laſt Importance. *I pray not for the World*, is his own Declaration. For Whom then? How ſhall We know, whether You and I are in the happy Number? Happy doubtleſs, they are, whom the great IMMANUEL remembers in his Kingdom. It would be a moſt deſirable Privilege, to be mentioned

tioned in the Prayers of all the eminent Saints in the World. But unspeakably more desirable, to have our Names written on the Palms of his Hands, whom the Father heareth always. Permit me to mention one Mark, whereby We may determine this Doubt. Has the LORD shed abroad in our Hearts a Spirit of Grace and Supplication for Ourselves? This is a Fruit of CHRIST's Intercession; and a sure Sign, that He has undertaken our Cause. We should never hear the reflected Echo, if there was not first the direct Sound. And We should never have these Breathings after GOD and Glory, if the blessed JESUS had not acted as our Advocate with the Father.

What Use may We make of this Doctrine? — It should encourage Us to pray: and to pray in Faith, nothing doubting. “*Having a GREAT HIGH-
“ PRIEST, that is passed into the Heavens, JESUS
“ the Son of GOD, let Us come boldly to the Throne of
“ Grace, that We may obtain Mercy, and find Grace to
“ Help in Time of Need.*” Men love to go there, where they are sure to be welcome, and expect to receive signal Benefits. Why then should We not delight to draw nigh unto the King immortal invisible, through the Intercession of CHRIST: who presents our Prayers, poor as they are; adds the rich Perfume of his own Merits; and says, “*Father, if I have merited aught by my Obedience
“ unto Death, accept these Supplications. Reward
“ Me, by blessing my People.*” Who could doubt

of a favourable Acceptance, if the LORD JESUS was to plead thus in behalf of our Petitions? But He pleads in a Manner, infinitely more prevailing, than these, than any, than all Words can express.

THIS should encourage Us to hope for Salvation; to hope, and be in nothing terrified. For, thus it is written; and the Writing is of more Worth, than all the Deeds in the World; *Wherefore He is Able to save them to the uttermost, who come unto GOD by Him, seeing He ever liveth, to make Intercession for them.* He LIVETH to make Intercession, on purpose to perform this beneficent Work. As though it were one main End of his Life, to execute this blessed Office. Surely then it will be executed with the greatest Fidelity, and with the greatest Success. — With such Success, that *He is able to save to the uttermost.* What a consolatory Saying is this! One of the choicest Cordials of the Gospel. Let Us cast our Burthen upon the LORD JESUS, and no Circumstances shall render our Salvation impracticable, no, nor so much as difficult. He can save from all Guilt, be it ever so heinous; from all Sins, be they ever so numerous; from all Enemies, be they ever so formidable; and to the very End of our Warfare, be it ever so long, or ever so sharp: which puts me in Mind of one Advantage more, derivable from this invaluable Article of our Faith.

It should give Us a chearful Trust of persevering unto the End. Our LORD says, *Simon, Simon, Satan has desired to have You, that He may sift You as Wheat.* And what was *Simon Peter's* Security? His own Vigilance? His own Resolution? No: but his divine Master's Intercession. *I, have prayed for Thee,* adds the compassionate Redeemer, *therefore thy Faith shall not fail.* The Intercession of CHRIST, is as a Wall of Fire around his People. By this they are kept, as by an impregnable Garrison. We can never lay too little Strefs on our own Performances, or our own Abilities; and never confide too much in CHRIST's Righteousness, and CHRIST's Intercession. Surely, his Intercession must prevail above all the Powers of Hell, above all the Temptations of the World, and all the Corruptions of our treacherous Hearts.—Blessed, for ever blessed be that sovereign Grace, which has brought your Ladyship to know, to believe in, to love this all-glorious Intercessor! May your Knowledge become clearer, your Faith stronger, and your Love warmer, every Day and every Hour, till, being protected by his Intercession, and guided by his Spirit, You are received into the Kingdom of his Glory.

Several Instances of Condescension and Generosity I have received from your Ladyship. I must now take Leave to solicit another. Which is, that your Ladyship will not only excuse the Length of my Letter, but admit it as the Measure of my Re-

spect, Esteem, and Gratitude. Then I shall look back on my Prolixity, not with Pain, but with Pleasure; if it may shew, how very much I am,

My Lady,

Miles's Lane,
Jan. 7th, 1752.

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
and dutiful Servant.

LETTER XXIII.

PARDON me, my honoured Lady, for suffering a Letter from your Ladyship, to be in my Possession a whole Week, without a grateful Acknowledgement of the Favour. I have been partly out of Order; partly engaged in Business; partly detained by Company.

I HUMBLY thank your Ladyship, for offering to employ your Interest, in behalf of my Friends or myself. I hope, I shall always retain a due Sense of the Kindness, even though I should have no Occasion to put your Ladyship to the Trouble. I bless the GOD of Heaven, I want for Nothing. Nothing, unless it be a Heart more deeply and devoutly affected with his most undeserved Goodness. My Brother also, at whose House I live, is in a Course of Business, flourishing and prosperous, as can be wished.

I BEG

I BEG Leave to assure your Ladyship; I am so far from divulging the Contents of your Letters, that I do not so much as mention the Receipt of them. And for two Reasons; lest such a Practice should foment a Spirit of Pride in me, and be prejudicial to your Ladyship's Character, as degrading Yourself, in vouchsafing to converse with so mean a Person; and one that passes, perhaps, for a Favourer of that queer Generation, called Methodists. One that is with them in his Heart, though hampered and withheld from acting, by a languishing Constitution. I would have very, very little Concern for my own Credit, but be tenderly solicitous for your Ladyship's. Though after all, the Honour that comes from this World, is scarce worth our Pursuit or our Wish. The Approbation of the King of Heaven, is our only, only Glory. May your Ladyship be owned by Him, at that all-important Day, when He shall come to be glorified in his Saints, and admired in all them that believe!

How glad am I to hear your Ladyship saying, I now desire to speak of nothing but Religion, and its precious Truths! May your Ladyship be more and more determined, *to know nothing but JESUS CHRIST, and Him crucified.* It is one of the wisest Resolutions, and was made by One of the greatest, happiest, and best of Men.—I rejoice also to find, that *You have tasted, That the LORD is gracious. Cleave to Him, my Lady, with full Purpose of Heart, and You shall see greater Things than these.*

these. For the Love of CHRIST, even to the weakest Believer, is in-expressible, un-measurable, inconceivable. You will see a Sketch of it, Matt. xii. 20.—a clearer Proof of it, Isai. xl. 11.—a still richer Display of it, Isai. xlix. 15.

I SHOULD have transcribed these several Passages: but I apprehend, it will be more pleasing to your Ladyship, and render the Scriptures more impressive, to collect them with your own Hand. As it is more agreeable to gather a Nectarine from the Tree, or a Pink from the Parterre, than to have the one served up on the Salver, or the other presented in a Nofegay. I hope, the blessed Spirit of GOD will make the charming and reviving Texts, unspeakably more relishing to your Ladyship, than the most delicious Fruits; and incomparably more delightful, than the most fragrant Flowers.—I intended to have enlarged upon that sweetest and noblest of all Subjects, the Love of our LORD JESUS CHRIST; but I perceive, it will lead me into too great a Length. For this Reason, I desist at present. But I hope, your Ladyship will not forbid me the Honour and Pleasure of writing to You again, within a little Time. When I purpose to ennoble, by this most excellent and glorious Topic, the otherwise unworthy Letter of,

My Lady, your Ladyship's

very much obliged,

and dutiful Servant.

Miles's Lane,
Jan. 18, 1752.

L E T.

L E T T E R XXIV.

MY LADY,

ON Saturday in the Afternoon, I promised myself a singular Pleasure, the Pleasure of writing to your Ladyship. But was hindered from enjoying it, by Company which could not be left, and by Business which could not be postponed.—I presume, your Ladyship has heard, that News is arrived from Mr. Whitefield. That He had a safe and speedy Voyage. Was in Health, and found all Things in good Condition at the Orphan-House.—I had no Letter. I think, he wrote but two. And this, as far as I can learn, is the most material of what they contained.—His Account, puts me in Mind of that inestimable Promise, made to the Patriarch, at a very critical and dangerous Period of his Life; *Fear not, Abram: I am thy Shield, and thy exceeding great Reward.* Part of which is most beautifully paraphrased by the first Genius of our Nation, and applied to all Believers.

How are thy Servants blest, O LORD!

How sure is their Defence!

Eternal Wisdom is their Guide,

Their Guard Omnipotence.

I THINK, my Lady, You have a Note under my Hand, for a few Thoughts on *The Love of*
CHRIST.

CHRIST. How glad am I to pay, as far as my Ability will reach, all my Obligations to your Ladyship! Especially when they are of a Nature so peculiarly pleasing. Shall we then consider

THE *Original* of his Love? It is free; perfectly free; without any Desert, or the least Amiability in Us. We love our kind Friends, and generous Benefactors: those that are accomplished in Themselves, or serviceable to our Interests. But CHRIST loved Us, when We were *Sinners*; when We were *forgetful* of Him; nay, *Enemies* to Him, by evil Tempers, and wicked Works. He loved Us (O sovereign, most un-merited Kindness!) when We deserved *nothing*, but utter Abhorrence, and eternal Vengeance.

THE *Commencement* of his Love. His Love is not of Yesterday. His Love, like his Outgoings, is from everlasting. *I have loved Thee*, says He to his Church, *with an everlasting Love*. We value the Affection, that is of long standing; has taken deep Root; and still continues unshaken. *How excellent, then, is thy Loving-Kindness*, O blessed JESUS! which, *before the Mountains were brought forth, or ever the Earth and the World were made*, was fixed upon sinful Dust! O! that We, my Lady, should be in the Thoughts, be upon the very Heart, of GOD's adorable Son, even from the Ages of Eternity!

THE *Duration* of his Love. It is invariable and eternal. *Having loved his own, He loveth them even unto the End*. It neither began with Time, neither will it end with Time. As no Worthiness in Us
caused

caused it; so neither will our Failings extinguish it; no, nor our Infirmities damp it. We change frequently; our holy Frames fail; but our adored Redeemer is the *same Yesterday, to Day, and for ever*. Fear not then, my honoured Lady; *neither Life nor Death, nor Things present, nor Things to come, nor any other Creature, shall be able to separate Us from the ever tender, the ever constant, the ever triumphant Love of GOD our Saviour.*

THE *Effects* of his Love. It brought Him from the Heaven of Heavens, to dwell in Clay, and be lodged in a Manger. It brought Him from those happy Mansions, where is the *Fulness of Joy*, and where are *Pleasures for evermore*; to be destitute, *afflicted*, tormented in this Vale of Tears. O my Lady, it made Him, who is Heir of all Things, not to have where to lay his Head; till he was stretched on the racking Cross, and laid it in the Gloom of the Grave. Un-paralleled and stupendous! *Who can declare the noble Acts of the Redeemer's Love, or shew forth all his Praise?*

THE *Fruits* of this Love. To this is owing all the Good, We possess, or expect; every spiritual and heavenly Blessing. If our Eyes are enlightened, in any Degree, to see the Things that belong to our Peace: if our Desires are awakened, to seek the *Inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away*: for this We are indebted to the Love and Grace of CHRIST. If We are sanctified in
Part,

Part, and desirous to grow in true Godliness: if We are perfectly justified before GOD, and adopted to be his Sons and Daughters: these also are Streams, which issue from that in-exhaustible Fountain, THE LOVE OF CHRIST. As it was stronger than Death, in its Actings and Sufferings; it is richer than all Worlds in its precious, precious Fruits. All the inconceivable and everlasting Joys of the glorified State, are its Purchase and its Gift. JUSTLY, therefore, does the Scripture make Use of all the endearing Relations, that subsist among Mankind, to represent the Love of CHRIST. Great is the Love of a Friend; greater the Love of a Brother; greater still the Love of a Parent; greatest of all the Love of a Bridegroom: but infinitely greater than any, than all, is the Love of the ever blessed IMMANUEL to his People. When all has been said, all has been imagined; it transcends every Comparison; it exceeds all Thought; or, as St. Paul speaks, *it passes Knowledge*.—May your Ladyship have more and more exalted Apprehensions of it; and live under a delightful Sense of its Richness and Perpetuity!—May it be your sweet Incitement to every Duty, and and your sovereign Cordial under all Tribulation!—And when Eternity, the vast Eternity opens, it shall be, in a Sense that no Heart can conceive, your Crown of Rejoycing; your exceeding great Reward.—And, I hope, You will sometimes pray,
that

LADY FRANCES SHIRLEY. 77

that it may be the present Comfort, and eternal
Joy of,

My Lady,
Your Ladyship's,
much obliged,

Miles's Lane, and most dutiful
Feb. 4, 1752. humble Servant.

P. S. May I ask, whether your Ladyship has seen
a little Collection of Poems, entitled *Visions*? They
are extremely elegant: composed in a high and fi-
nished Taste; perfectly moral and virtuous; and
want Nothing but a little of the Savour of *that*
Name, which is as Ointment poured forth. The
Author reckons me in the Number of his Friends;
and I should be glad to do Him any Service. [He
has a very large Family, and no very affluent Cir-
cumstances. He is going to sell the Copy; and a
quick Demand for the present Edition, would con-
siderably encrease the Price.] Could your Lady-
ship speak a recommending Word for them to the
polite World? I dare venture to assure your Lady-
ship, it will be no Derogation to the Delicacy of
your Judgment.

L E T-

LETTER XXV.

MY LADY,

YESTERDAY I received the Honour of your Ladyship's Letter; and, grateful for that, please myself with the Prospect of another, which your Ladyship has given me Reason to expect, before the Expiration of the Week.

As your Ladyship was just going into the Country, when You put Pen to Paper, I cannot but follow You thither, or wait upon You there, with my very best Wishes. That the GOD of all Goodness may *blefs your Going out and Coming in, from this Time forth for evermore.* That where-ever You reside, He may be ever near You, by his enlightening, comforting, sanctifying Presence.

ON Sunday last in the After-noon We were greatly alarmed. A Fire broke out in a Sugar-Bakers Work-House, to which a Part of my Brother's Dwelling-House joyns. We were all Confusion and Consternation; almost smothered with Smoke; and crouded by the Mob. Three Engines playing from various Parts of our House, and several others pouring in Water from other Quarters, by the Blessing of GOD, kept under the raging Element, and in a few Hours extinguished it.—It put me in Mind of that tremendous Day, when *the Heavens shall pass away with a great Noise, when the Elements will melt with fervent Heat, and the*
Earth

Earth with all the Works that are therein shall be burnt up. Then, when the Possessions of the Mighty shall be no where found; may your Ladyship have a House not made with Hands, eternal in the Heavens! When the Wealth of the Covetous shall come utterly to an End; may your Ladyship enjoy an Inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

To the Satisfaction I receive in forming these Wishes, give me Leave, my Lady, to add the further Pleasure of subscribing myself,

Your Ladyship's,

Miles's Lane,
Feb. 19, 1752.

most dutiful
humble Servant.

L E T T E R XXVI.

MY LADY,

I AM sincerely sorry, to hear of your Ladyship's Indisposition. This, I hope, may venture to congratulate You, on a thorough Recovery.—These Disorders of the earthly Tabernacle, are Pre-monitions of its final Dissolution. They have every one a Voice, and this is their Meaning; thus they address our Affections; “ Arise, and depart, for Here is not your Rest. These Tenements of Clay will soon fail. But there is a City, whose Foundations

“dations will never be removed. There are Man-
 “fions, from which the happy Inhabitants will never
 “be dispossessed. These the blessed JESUS has
 “purchased for You, by his precious Blood. These
 “He has prepared for You, by his almighty Power.
 “Beseech—O! beseech Him, to make You meet
 “for them, by his sanctifying Spirit.”

WHAT shall I say, my Lady, concerning the Honour You intended me? It is greater than I could have expected.—And what, concerning the Honour to which you invite me? It is with unfeigned Regret, that I cannot accept it.—I have been a Fellow-Sufferer with your Ladyship. Have had a violent Cold, attended with feverish Symptoms. Which still hang about me; and I am sometimes apprehensive, will deliver me over to the Physician. This Disorder, it is thought, was caught, on the Day of our late Consternation and Danger. When I was driven from my Home; and in order to avoid the Fire, was obliged to wade through Water.

Water and Fire, put me in Mind of those terrible Desolations, which were once made by the Instrumentality of these Elements. When GOD made them the Sword of his Vengeance, to destroy a degenerate World, and four polluted Cities. I mention this, because it leads our Thoughts to that beneficent and glorious Person, who delivers from the Wrath to come. Who, in both these Cases, was particularly typified; in the one, by the *Ark*; in the other, by *Zoar* or the Mountain. O! my Lady,

let Us fly to Him—cleave to Him—make our Boast of Him—and rejoice in Him—You know his Name. May your Ladyship know more and more of the Riches of his Goodness, and the Power of his Grace! Till You see Him, and dwell for ever with Him, in that happy World, where *the Inhabitants shall no more say, I am sick*. There, I hope, through the Blood of the everlasting Covenant, to meet your Ladyship: and no longer tire You with the disagreeable Mention of my Indispositions, but join with You in loving, adoring, and magnifying that dear, divinely excellent JESUS, *who loved Us, and washed Us from our Sins in his own Blood*. To his infinitely tender Care I commit your Ladyship, and beg Leave to subscribe myself, with the greatest Respect, and sincerest Gratitude,

Miles's Lane,
Feb. 25, 1752.

Your Ladyship's obliged
and dutiful Servant.

L E T T E R XXVII.

WILL your Ladyship give me Leave, to transmit in Writing, what I heard in Conversation? An Event, that lately happened; and told by a Person, who was Eye-Witness to the Whole.

A SOLDIER was condemned to be executed for Desertion. A young Man, in the Prime of Life,

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with

with the Bloom of Health on his Countenance.— Being come to the Place of Execution, He prepared Himself for Death, without any apparent Emotion, of Fear: opened his Breast, without any Change of Countenance; and drew the Cap over his Eyes, without the least Trepidation in his Limbs.—Six of his Comrades were draughted out, and ordered to advance softly forwards. Being come within four Yards of the Criminal, they received the Signal to fire; and shot each his Ball quite through the Body.—After this, the Corpse, with the Face uncovered, and the Wounds bleeding, was extended on the Ground; and the whole Regiment, to make the Terror more impressive, marched over its Legs. The Sight was so awful, that one of the Soldiers fainted away, as He passed by the dismal Spectacle; and the Account so affecting, that I observed the Tears stealing down the Cheeks of a Lady, where it was related.

WILL not this help Us, my Lady, to form some faint Apprehension of GOD Almighty's tender and amazing Love in CHRIST JESUS?—When We had deserted his Service, and rebelled against his Majesty, not once, nor twice only, but Times out of Number; did He pass Sentence of Death upon Us? No: He exercised all long-suffering towards Us.—Instead of condemning Us, He deputed his own Son, to be condemned and to suffer in our Room. He resigned the dearly beloved of his Soul, the immaculate and blessed JESUS,
to

to receive all the Arrows of Vengeance into his Heart; to become a pale, bloody, mangled Corpse; a Spectacle of Misery to Angels and Men: on purpose, that We might go free; that We might be delivered from Punishment; and be made Heirs of eternal Happiness.

O ADORABLE Kindness! To spare such Rebels; freely to pardon, and fully to forgive them! — Still more adorable and stupendous! To raise them from the Block, to the highest Preferments in Heaven! To exalt them from the Stake, to a glorious Crown, and an everlasting Kingdom! — But, to surrender his illustrious and divine Son, to die in their Place; this is Loving-Kindness, unutterable and inconceivable. Language cannot express it. Thought is unable to reach it. May your Ladyship never forget it: continually admire it: and be habitually influenced by it! — HE who with-held not his Son, but gave Him-up for Us and our Salvation, will He not with Him also freely give Us all Things? That He may give your Ladyship all the Blessings of the Gospel of Peace, is the Heart's Desire, and the earnest Prayer of,

My Lady,

Miles's Lane,
March 23, 1752.

your Ladyship's most obliged,
and dutiful Servant.

P. S. You have heard, I presume, from our excellent Friend in *America*. I think, He could not forget your Ladyship, as He remembered me. My

Letter was very short, as He was in great Doubt, whether it would find me in the Land of the Living. Nothing at all material, only an Account of his own Welfare, otherwise I would have taken the Pleasure of communicating it to your Ladyship.

LETTER XXVIII.

MADAM,

YESTERDAY, in the Evening, I received your Ladyship's Letter; and the first Thing I do this Morning, is, to return my Thanks, for the Honour it did me, and the Pleasure it gave me.

You may depend upon it, I always appear, in my Letters to your Ladyship, with one of my best Frames of Mind: just as I should appear in Person, was I able to wait upon your Ladyship, with my sprucest Suit of Cloaths. But it is not always Sunshine and Serenity in my Breast. Neither is it always Purity and Harmony in my Temper. I have so much Vanity, and so many Follies; such stupid In-attention, and odious Ingratitude; such stubborn Irresignation, and unconquerable Pride; such frequent Sallies of foolish Desire, and Workings of evil Affection; above all, such un-reasonable Unbelief in the Merits of my Saviour, and the Promises

mises of my GOD; that I should not bear to have any One acquainted with the Transactions of my Heart. Any, but that tender, indulgent, gracious GOD, who considers *whereof We are made; who remembers that We are but Dust*; and whose Mercy is as his Majesty, exceedingly great and infinite. At his adorable Feet I would lye very very low; and make, from the Bottom of my depraved Soul, the poor Leper's Confession, *Unclean! Unclean!* GOD almighty is pleased, of his singular Goodness, to preserve me from any very scandalous Outbreakings of Corruption; but I am often exercised with inward Trials; have often Reason to complain, *when I would do Good, Evil is present with me.*

THIS, my Lady, I believe, the wise and gracious GOD permits—That He may shew Us, what is in our Heart: that *it is deceitful and desperately wicked*; and may bring Us off from all Self-Admiration, to *abhor Ourselves in Dust and Ashes*.—That He may teach Us to prize our glorious Advocate and Surety more highly; to renounce our wretchedly imperfect Selves more thoroughly; and place our whole Affiance on his Son's precious Blood, and immaculate Righteousness.—That He may quicken our Desires after brighter and more transforming Manifestations of CHRIST; after richer and more efficacious Communications of his Spirit.—That He may wean our Affections more and more from this disordered State, and render Us less unwilling to be dissolved. To be dissolved, and enter into that happy World,

where all Ignorance will be dispelled; all Corruption destroyed; and We shall love the LORD JESUS CHRIST, not only in Sincerity, but with everlasting Ardour.

At such Seasons, I think it best, my Lady, to be-ware of too much Disquietude and Anxiety. I remember some Expressions, that dropped from a dear Friend, when I had the Honour of being in your Ladyship's Company at the Countess Delitz's, which tended to cherish this drooping, disconsolate Disposition. As though We ought to be scourged with the Lashes of Conscience, and hang down our Heads as a Bulrush.—But why should We covet to be scourged? when our divine Master was wounded for these Sins, and bruised for these Iniquities? Will our Uneasiness and self-tormenting Cares add any Thing to the Value of CHRIST's Atonement?—Or, should We indulge the inward Distress, in order to humble our Minds? It will sadden them; enervate them; discourage their Addresses to the Source of Good; and have just such an Effect upon them, as the Failure of animal Spirits has upon the Body. And whether this Failure of animal Spirits, fits the Body for any one Instance of Service, or any one Species of Enjoyment, let those, who have experienced the Change, judge.—No, my Lady; the truest Humility, the most genuine Abasement, is grounded on a Sense of our ever-blessed Redeemer's Love. He that is high above all Height, humbled Himself to Death, even the Death of the Cross, that

He might make Expiation for these Offences. When We are properly impressed with this astonishing and delightful Truth, it will sink Us in Humiliation, even while it exalts Us in Hope. If We observe the Scales of a Balance; the higher the One ascends, the lower proportionably the Other drops. So, the more We advance in this Faith, the more We shall encrease in Poverty of Spirit.

THEREFORE, when such Temptations occur, when such Defilements arise, don't be desirous, honour'd Madam, of dwelling upon the afflicting Conviction of shameful Guilt, and abominable Vileness; but turn the Eye of your Mind to the bleeding, agonizing, dying JESUS. Get rid of the Fear and the Distress, by a firm assured Belief, That the King of Heaven has smarted for these Follies: that the LORD of Life has suffered Death for these Sins: and the Prince of Peace poured out his Blood for these Transgressions. That, though they are displeasing to the divine Majesty; it will be much more displeasing, if We disbelieve the Truth of his Word, or distrust the Efficacy of his beloved Son's Propitiation. — Thus, my Lady, fight the good Fight of Faith, and *overcome through the Blood of the Lamb*. By such a repeated Application of his all-sufficient infinite Merits, I hope, You will find your Soul cheered, refreshed, and filled with Abundance of Peace. Then, I am persuaded, You will find Yourself, like a Person that has shook off the Manacles from his Hands, or thrown a heavy Load from his

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Shoulders,

Shoulders, far more free, enlarged, and active in the Ways of the LORD.

My Comfort on such Occasions, is principally derived from turning such Scriptures as the following into secret Prayer; Hof. xiv. 4. Zech. xiii. 1. Heb. ix. 13, 14. 1 John ii. 1, 2.

AND do not let Us suspect, that the LORD JESUS abhors Us for such Infirmities, though undoubtedly sinful. No; He is a faithful and compassionate High-Priest. He was tempted in all Things like as We are, yet without Sin. He will therefore graciously receive Us; reveal Himself to Us; and say to Us by his blessed Spirit, *Son, Daughter, be of good Cheer: I have died for all thy Misdoings.*—Should Lord ———, in his Journey to Bath, have the Misfortune to fall from his Horse, or be over-turned in his Coach, and make his Appearance before the Countess, besmeared with Blood, disfigured with Dirt, and torn with Wounds; would her Ladyship loath Him on this Account? Quite the reverse. Her Bowels would yearn; she would feel Compassion added to her Affection; and gently wipe away the Blood, and tenderly take Care of the Wounds. Such, or rather unspeakably more condescending and gracious will our LORD's Reception of Us be, when We come weary, heavy laden, and defiled with Guilt, to find Rest in his Merits, He vouchsafes to call Himself our *everlasting FATHER*; and will never, never be outdone by any earthly

earthly Parent in the Exercise of Compassion and Goodness.

POOR ——— has some odd Tempers : which make her many Enemies. So many, that, I believe, She is almost as universally disliked, as her amiable Husband is loved. But I am apt to think, People aggravate her Weaknesses. Ah ! my Lady, 'tis an unkind World. It delights to propagate defamatory Reports ; and the Ball of Censure, always gathers as it rolls. Where is that loveliest of Virtues, Charity ? We see Her charmingly pourtrayed by the finest Pencil under Heaven ; 1 Corinth. xiii. But when, how rarely at least, do We see Her tread the Stage of Life, or enter the Circle of Conversation ? O ! that, commissioned by her great Master and Pattern, She may dwell in your Ladyship's Heart, and not be an utter Stranger to mine !

I SINCERELY wish, that the Countess D, and all the Personages of Distinction, who have tasted that the LORD is gracious, may grow in Grace ; may be filled with the Spirit ; and be valiant in the Cause, zealous for the Interests, of JESUS of *Nazareth*. All the Hosts of Heaven adore Him ; and shall We, Creatures of the Ground, be ashamed to own Him. Angels, Men, and Devils, shall bow the Knee to Him, at the last Day ; and shall We, in this our Day, blush to acknowledge our Relation to Him ?

WE have, doubtless, many Enemies, and probably shall not cease to be assaulted with Temptations, so long as We continue in this Wilderness. But
let

let Us not fear, my Lady. We have a Captain and a Guide, who is as gracious as ~~We~~ could wish; far more gracious than We can think. Hear his own Words; and may his own Spirit write them upon your Ladyship's Heart: *For I, saith the LORD, will be unto Her a Wall of Fire round about, and will be the Glory in the Midst of Her.* Zech. ii. 5. Only let Us look unto Him; walk closely with him; and, like good Hezekiah, (of whom I have just been reading) cleave unto Him.

I ASSURE You, my Lady, I should lose a signal Satisfaction, as well as offend highly against Gratitude, if I should cease to pray for your Increase in Faith, in Holiness, and in Joy. And I have the Comfort to think, the dearly beloved Son of GOD, JESUS CHRIST the Righteous, ever liveth to makè Intercession for your Ladyship, and also (as his Grace and his Truth oblige me to believe) for

Mile's Lane,
March 31, 1752.

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
and dutiful Servant.

P. S. I have tired my own Hand, and, I fear, have tired your Ladyship's Patience. I should not at all regret the one, if your Ladyship will excuse the other.

LET

L E T T E R XXIX.

I BEG Leave to pay my most grateful Respects to your Ladyship once more; being upon the Point to remove into Northamptonshire. It has pleased GOD to take my honour'd Father to Himself. So that I am obliged to depart from my present Situation; and, if I can bear the Journey, and undergo the Fatigue, to take the Living of Weston. O! that I had Strength of Constitution, to watch over a Flock, and feed them with the Milk of the Word! But the Will of the LORD is best. He employs whom He will employ, and whom He will He lays aside. Wise and righteous are all His Ways.

'Tis very probable, I shall never have the Pleasure of seeing your Ladyship again, on this Side the everlasting Habitations. My enfeebled State renders me like an aged Tree, which must continue, where it is fixed; to transplant it, or to remove it, is to kill it.—O my Lady, my honour'd Lady, let Us, with those Believers of old, *cleave to the LORD with full Purpose of Heart*. Cleave to that ever-blessed and all-gracious LORD, who bore all our Sins in his own Body on the Tree: who fulfilled all Righteousness for our Justification; and ever liveth to make Intercession for Us.—Let Us *remember Him in the Night-Season, and think upon Him when We are waking*. Let Us converse with Him by silent Supplication,

plication, and believing Communion. Let Us look to Him as our amiable Pattern, and depend upon Him as our all-sufficient Propitiation. Let Us live upon Him, and rejoice in Him. That when the Hour of our Dissolution approaches, We may not change our Company, not change our Employ, but only change the Place of our Abode.—Then, my Lady, I shall hope to welcome You (for in this *one* Instance You must give me Leave to go before You) into the *House not made with Hands, eternal in the Heavens*.—Till then, my best Prayers will ever attend your Ladyship: I shall wish for your Ladyship's Happiness as ardently as for my own: and shall always be ambitious of professing myself

Tottenham,
May 19, 1752.

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
most grateful,
most dutiful, humble Servant.

LETTER XXX.

MY LADY,

I AM just arrived at Weston, after a pleasant Journey, in an easy Coach, and cool Weather. But much fatigued, though We allowed two Days for about seventy Miles. May the gracious GOD, who has brought Us safe, both make and keep Us thankful!

SEE!

SEE! my Lady, How almost every Thing reminds Us, that Here We have no continuing City; but are Pilgrims and Sojourners below. In Heaven is our true Home. There everlasting Rest is to be enjoyed. There Sicknefs and Sin are banished. And there the once crucified, but now exalted JESUS, dwells and reigns for ever. — There may your Ladyship's Affections be fixed! And in this Practice may I be so wife as to imitate You: in that Place may I be so happy as to meet You.

I RECEIVED your Ladyship's Favour, when I was packing up and preparing for my Journey. Which wearied my weak Constitution to such a Degree, that I was not able to pay my grateful Acknowledgements, before I left Tottenham. Now I take Leave to thank you for your condescending Letter, and for giving me Leave to write to your Ladyship from the Country.

I BEG you Madam not to mention any Thing like an Apology. Thanks are due to your Ladyship, for making my Letter acceptable to Others, by approving it yourself, and honouring it with your Recommendation. — I humbly blefs GOD, if He pleases to give it Favour in the Eyes of Others; and should think it the highest Privilege, if He would vouchsafe to render it at all serviceable to their best Interests; especially, to such a distinguished and illustrious Personage, as the Princess of W———. May HE, who is Prince of the Kings of the Earth,
give

give her Royal Highness, to taste the Sweetness of his Word, and feel the Power of his Grace!

I ASSURE You, my Lady, I have not the least Aversion to print any Production of mine, in case better Judges should think it might tend to maintain the Honour of the Bible, or endear that inestimable Book to Mankind. How unfeignedly should I rejoice, if I might be an Instrument of glorifying, in any Capacity or in any Degree, that amiable Redeemer; who, for my sake, *was despised and rejected of Men*.—All I fear, is, lest acute but irreligious Minds, should discover some weak Sentiment; should find some Flaw in the Argument; and take Occasion to wound the Redeemer, and vilify his Truths, through my Inadvertence.—Be so good, my Lady, as to make (if your Ladyship thinks proper) my very respectful Compliments acceptable to *Dr. Hales*, and inform Him of my Suspicions. If He would please to revise the little Essay, with a particular View to these Apprehensions; and should think the Remarks will stand the Test of a rigorous Examination (for such they must expect) my Scruples would be very much abated.—I believe, I durst undertake to vindicate all the Observations, that are of a critical Nature with regard to the original Language, or of an historic Nature with regard to Fact.—Whether I offend against the Rules of polite and genteel Demeanour, your Ladyship is the best Judge.—There should have been References to Texts of Scripture, either quoted or alluded to.—
If

If your Ladyship, or the Dr. should persist in your Opinion, I wish You would be so good as to get the Paper transcribed (no Matter how close it is written) and transmitted to me in a Frank. For I have no Copy of it, only some in-coherent Minutes in Short-Hand.—May that ever-blessed Being, who looks forward into the remotest Futurity, and discerns the Consequences of every Step We offer to take; may HE direct Us in this and all our Purposes! Guide Us by his Grace, and receive Us into his Glory! For his Wisdom is un-erring, and his Goodness is infinite.

I KNOW not what the LORD will do with me, or how I shall proceed. My Strength is so worn down, and my Constitution so irreparably decayed, that it will be absolutely impossible for me to discharge my ministerial Duty. And I think it will be equally impossible for me to forget your Ladyship in my best Moments, or to be insensible of your generous Kindness.

I am,

Weston, your Ladyship's most obliged,
May 23, 1752. and most dutiful Servant.

L E T.

LETTER XXXI.

I AM indebted to your Ladyship for the Favour, which Wednesday's Post brought to my Hands. I hope, your Ladyship will, by honouring me, sometimes, with a Line, make me still more and more your Debtor. For, though I dread the Thought of contracting other Debts, I shall find a peculiar Pleasure in running deep on this Score.

My Chaplain-ship is an Honour, which I neither expected nor solicited. The whole Affair was transacted without my Knowledge, by Means of my dear Friend Mr. Whitefield. Who, in some Degree like his divine Master, is more ready to give, than others are to ask his kind Assistance. Had I made Application for myself, your Ladyship would have been the first Person in the World, to whom I should chuse to be obliged for procuring me such a Privilege; and I am sure, there is no One, from whom I could have greater Reason to hope for Success in such a Request.—I am sorry to incur, on any Account, your Ladyship's Displeasure. Yet, in this Case, it pleases me to observe, that even your Anger is amiable; and I can read the Benevolence of the Heart in the Frowns of the Face.

I AM glad to hear, that such eminent and able Geniuses are determined to employ their Talents in so noble a Cause, as the Honour of the most High GOD. But can there be, my Lady, such a Creature

ture as an Atheist in the World? There may be Pretenders to Atheism. But I verily believe, they are self-convicted and self-condemned by the Verdict of their own Breasts. However, I shall be very much pleased to see the Scheme, which these Gentlemen propose to execute. That I may have the Satisfaction to accompany it with my Prayers, and may *wish them good Luck in the Name of the LORD.*

WESTON, my Lady, is near Northampton. About two Miles from the Town. Pleasantly situate; on an agreeable Eminence; on the right Side of the River; and at a proper Distance from the Meadow. My House is quite retired. It faces the Garden and the Field. So that We hear none of the tumultuous Din of the World, and see nothing but the wonderful and charming Works of the Creator. O! that I may be enabled to improve this advantageous Solitude? Though secluded from the gay and the busy Scenes of Life, may I ever be present with that divine Being, who has Heaven for his Throne, and the Earth for his Footstool. Whose Mercy in CHRIST JESUS, is like his Majesty, exceeding great and infinite. Who is therefore highly to be admired, and dearly to be loved, as well as deeply to be revered.

I DID, on the Day your Ladyship mentions, ascend the Pulpit; and speak, for the Space of half an Hour, to my People. But with so much Weakness — O! 'tis well that the eternal GOD does not want Strength of Lungs, or Delicacy of Elocution;

cution; but can do his Work, his great Work of converting Souls, by the weakest, meanest Instruments. If it was not so, indeed my Lady I must absolutely despair of being successful in my Labour, or serviceable in my Office.

I OPENED my Commission to my new Parishioners, from those Words of the blessed and only Potentate; *Preach the Gospel to every Creature*. Shewed them—What the Gospel means, and what Blessings it comprehends—By whom these Blessings were purchased, and to whom they are offered—Exhorted them severally to secure to themselves a Share in these unspeakable Blessings—And gave them to understand, that the End of my Preaching amongst them, the Design of my Conversation with them, and the principal Aim of my whole Life would be, to bring them acquainted with this delightful Doctrine, and assist them in obtaining this great Salvation.—I bless GOD for making my poor Discourse acceptable to my Hearers; and now I must beseech that bountiful Giver of all Good, to make it beneficial to their Souls. While I am exercising myself in this pleasing Employ, the truest Method of expressing my pastoral Affection; I hope, I shall not forget the Duty of Gratitude, which will always be owing to your Ladyship, by

Weston,
June 13, 1752.

Your Ladyship's most obedient
and most obliged Servant.

LET-

L E T T E R XXXII.

MY LADY,

AN Answer to my Letter, so speedy and so obliging, is acknowleged as a double Favour. May your Ladyship find a gracious GOD equally ready to hear, and equally willing to fulfil, every Request of your Lips, and all the Desire of your Heart!—*Equally* did I say? He is inconceivably more bountiful than the most generous and benevolent among the Children of Men. What is the Language of his transcendent Goodness in CHRIST, and how runs his faithful Promise to his People? *It shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.* What a sweet Encouragement is this, to make frequent Application to his divine Majesty?

THE Bishop of N——h, I have been told, is a very fine Scholar, and a very polite Gentleman. May He crown his other Accomplishments, by acting the Part of a very zealous Christian. I am glad to hear, that He has joined the noble Association, which is determined to make a public Stand, against the Over-flowings of Infidelity and Vice. — 'Tis written in the Scriptures of Truth; *When the Enemy cometh in like a Flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a Standard against Him.* Who knows, but, partly by the Productions of these masterly

Pens, and partly by the Labours of the honest Methodists, this Prophecy may be, in some Measure, fulfilled?—May I ask your Ladyship, Whether the Performance is to consist of detached Papers, like the Spectators? Or to be comprized in a large Treatise? Whether it is to come abroad in periodical Essays? Or to make its Appearance all at once? Whether their Design is to be kept as a Secret, or whether it may be communicated in Conversation to Others?—I hope, the GOD of Heaven has stirred up the Minds of these eminent Persons, and will accompany with his Favour the Work they undertake. For, with regard to that almighty Being, the Words of *Balak* are as true, as in their original Application of them they were false: *I wot* (rather, I am assured) *that He whom Thou blestest, is blessed; and He whom Thou cursest, is cursed.*

WHENEVER You please to give me a Sight of those manuscript Papers, your Ladyship will be so good as to send them to Miles's Lane, my Brother will transmit them to Weston. As soon as I have revised them; added the proper marginal References; and perhaps corrected some In-accuracies; they shall be returned, and wholly resigned to your Ladyship's Disposal. I shall only beseech the great Head of the Church, who sees into the remotest Futurity, and discerns the Consequences of every Undertaking, to direct your Ladyship in all your Determinations.

WHAT a Privilege is it, my Lady, that We have Leave, nay, have a Command, to address Ourselves
to

to an all-wise and all-powerful Friend, in every Doubt and in every Difficulty! *Be careful* (be anxious and perplexed) *for nothing: but in every Thing by Prayer and Supplication, with Thanksgiving, let your Requests be made known unto GOD.* This is the divine Direction. What follows, is the divine Promise. *Whatsoever Ye shall ask the Father in my Name, He will give it You. Ask, and Ye shall receive, that your Joy may be full.* O! that We may be enabled to obey this Direction, and believe this Promise! —Your Ladyship remembers, how the Congregation of *Israel* were left to a mistaken Course, by neglecting this sacred Method of Information. Nor can You forget, how *David*, in a very difficult and dangerous Conjuncture, was led in the right Way, by seeking this heavenly Guidance.—I heartily wish, that your Ladyship may have the Spirit of Grace and Supplication from the living GOD. May, Here, be guided by his Counsel; and, Here-after, be received into his Glory.

A RICHER Blessing I could not mention, though I should continue writing, till my Paper was filled, and your Ladyship's Patience tired. This therefore is the proper Time and Place, for requesting the Honour of subscribing myself,

Weston, Your Ladyship's most obliged
June 20, 1752. and most dutiful Servant.

T E T T E R XXXIII.

MY LADY,

AS I was fitting down to the pleasing Employ of paying my Duty to your Ladyship, Company came in to talk with me, on an Affair which could neither be neglected, nor postponed. To this it is owing, that your Ladyship did not receive my grateful Acknowledgements by the last Post.— The Affair is this. Advised by my Friends, importuned by my Relations, and swayed by a Concern for the Circumstances of a Mother and Sister who live with me, I have been prevailed on to take a second Benefice. This obliges me to set out for *Cambridge* without Delay, in order to be created *Master of Arts*. From thence I proceed to *London*, to get a Dispensation from the *Arch-Bishop*, and the Seals from the *Lord Chancellor*. On Wednesday Night I hope to be in Town; and if I can get my Business dispatched, by Saturday or Monday at the farthest, I may return soon enough to meet our *Bishop* on his Visitation at *Northampton*; receive Institution there; and save myself the Fatigue and Expence of a Journey to *Peterborough*. This Scheme, if practicable, will demand so much of my Time, that, I fear, it will be impossible for me to wait upon your Ladyship at *Twickenham*. Which if I could do, it would help to alleviate the Difficulties, and reconcile me to the Toil of travelling.

I WAS honoured with your Ladyship's Letter, just as I returned from visiting my People at *Collingtree* : the Parish which I served, when I lived with my Father, and of which I am going to be Rector. It would have pleased your Ladyship, to have observed, how glad the honest Folks were, to see their old Curate. And why were they glad? For no other Reason, that I can conceive, but because I used to converse with them in private, just as I spoke to them from the Pulpit; and endeavoured, at every Interview, to set forward their eternal Salvation. This, I find, is the grand Secret, to win the Affections of a Flock. And in this, as in every other Part of true Christianity, our Interest and our Duty are connected. When We are bidden to obey the blessed JESUS, We are bidden to take the most effectual Way, of being happy in Ourselves, and acceptable to Others. *O! how amiable are thy Courts, thou LORD of Hosts!* said the Psalmist. And may not We, with equal Truth, reply? *O! how amiable are thy Precepts, Thou LORD Redeemer!* May they be written on your Ladyship's Memory, by frequent Recollection; and engraven on your Heart, by the Spirit of the living GOD!

HERE I intended to have forborn, and to detain your Ladyship's Attention no longer. But a fresh Favour demands my Thanks.—No, my Lady; I did not laugh at the Contents of your last, (as your Ladyship is pleased to speak) but was delighted with your Condescension and Compassion. Your Lady-

ship knows, who it is that has said, *Condescend to Men of low Estate*: and who it is, of whom it was said, *We have not an High-Priest that cannot be touched with a Feeling of our Infirmities*. And, grateful as I am for your Favours, zealous as I am for your Happiness, I cannot wish your Ladyship a greater Blessing, than to be found obedient to that Direction, and conformed to that Pattern.

I ALWAYS read your Ladyship's Letters again and again, before I obey the Orders You formerly gave. But having once perused the first Part of your last, I dare not venture to look upon it any more. Your Ladyship will guess the Reason, when I assure You, that as the Magazine of Gun-Powder is to a Spark, such, such is my depraved Soul to the least Whisper of Applause. It cannot bear Praise. Elate-ment ensues. O! that it may drive me to CHRIST. See there, vain, conceited Wretch—see, how loathsome thy Guilt is, how ruined thy State was; since nothing less than the Blood of the Son of GOD could cleanse Thee, nothing but his Death could recover Thee. See this, and blush, and be confounded, even whilst Thou art restored.—If Your Ladyship pleases to transmit these Papers to my Brother's in a few Days, the Author will take Care of them, and convey them safely to the Rector of *Weston*. Who, in both Capacities, and with the utmost Sincerity, wishes your Ladyship all
Joy

Joy and Peace in the LORD JESUS; and begs
Leave to profess Himself,

Weston,

Your Ladyship's most obliged
July 3, 1752. and most dutiful Servant.

L E T T E R XXXIV.

NOW, my Lady, I have put your Kindness, your Generosity, and forgiving Graces to the Trial. You imagined, I was in Town; had received your Letter; and yet neither waited on You in Person, nor made any Excuse by my Pen. Which if I had done, I must have owned myself in-excusable.—But, at *Cambridge*, I was informed by a Gentleman of the spiritual Court, that I had not provided myself with all the Pre-requisites for taking a second Living. Which obliged me to alter my Measures; and, instead of proceeding from the *University* to *London*, to return Home. I now propose to set out for the Metropolis on Monday or Tuesday.

I HAVE just received the Manuscript Papers, and the Favour of your Ladyship's Letter.—Glad I am, very glad, that my Remarks have the continued Approbation of those excellent Judges; and shall, with the utmost Alacrity, venture them abroad in the World. Hoping, they may be a Means of subserving, in some low Degree, that grand Designation

tion of almighty Majesty, mentioned by the Psalmist ; *Thou hast magnified thy WORD above all thy Name.*

I THINK, your Ladyship's Objection was very just and weighty. I fancy, it would be most adviseable to send the little Piece abroad under my own Name. As the Acceptance (without Vanity I would speak it) which my other Essays have found from the Public, may promote the Spread of this. And—I will conceal nothing from your Ladyship—I apprehend, my Bookseller would give me something for the Copy. Which, at this Juncture, would scarcely be consistent with Prudence to neglect. The Expence of taking two Livings is very great. It will cost me, I am told, six-score Pounds. And though, I believe, I have Money enough in Bank, produced by selling the Property of my Meditations ; yet, such a Succour would be welcome and serviceable.

WILL your Ladyship lend your Name, either at full Length, or in initial Letters, to dignify and recommend the Performance ? I humbly submit this Proposal to your Ladyship's Determination : and shall be obliged, if You allow it ;—shall acquiesce, if You reject it.

I am just returned from a Visit at *Northampton*. Where I spent an agreeable (O ! that it may prove an edifying) Afternoon, in Company with a Physician, a Clergyman, and a Poet. Part of our Discourse turned upon that noble, that very important, and equally comfortable Prophecy, which your Ladyship

dyship probably has treasured up in your Memory, or else may read in Dan. ix. 24. Among other Particulars We enquired, Why the Righteousness of our LORD JESUS CHRIST is called an *everlasting Righteousness*? — Because of its *Imputation*; which commenced from the Beginning, and will be continued to the End of the World. By this All the Saints, in every Age, and under every Dispensation of Religion, were justified. To this *Adam*, the first Penitent, owed his Reconciliation; and to this the very last Believer of *Adam's* Race, will be indebted for his Acceptance with GOD. — Because of its *Efficacy*; which lasts in every Circumstance of Need, in every Hour of Trial: lasts through our whole Life, and will last even beyond our Death. Those happy Beings, who are delivered from Flesh, and entered into Rest, enjoy the Benefits of this Righteousness. When the Resurrection takes Place, and their blessed Souls are reunited to their glorified Bodies, they will enjoy the Benefits of this Righteousness far more copiously. And will still be reaping the Fruits of this Righteousness, through all the numberless and unmeasurable Ages of Eternity.

—MAY that infinitely condescending and gracious Redeemer, who was pleased to work it out, in his own sacred Person;—who has revealed and offered it in his glorious Gospel;—vouchsafe to BRING IT IN, apply it to your Ladyship's Soul by a lively Faith,

Faith, and seal it to your Conscience by the Witness of his Spirit.

I BEGAN this Letter, with an Intention of being very short, and was thinking to make an Excuse for my Brevity. But I find, there is more Occasion to apologize for my Prolixity. A Fault, which I know not how to forbear, when I have the Pleasure of writing to your Ladyship. As the best Apology for this Fault is to add no more; I shall only desire, that your Ladyship will give me Leave to inform You, when I am arrived in Town; and if I could, by any Means, be favoured with a few Minutes of your Ladyship's Conversation, it would be a singular Satisfaction to

Weston,
July 11, 1752.

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
and most dutiful Servant,

LETTER XXXV.

MY LADY,

THE World is all Disappointment. Either our most favourite Schemes are defeated: or, if they succeed, frustrate our Expectations. Of the former I had lately a Proof; the latter has been the Experience of my whole Life.—Amidst such Uncertainty and Emptiness in created Things, what a Happiness it is, to have a divine and all-sufficient Redeemer!

Redeemer! He is a sure Foundation for Repose. He is an in-exhaustible Spring of Consolation. In HIM there is Merit, and Goodness, and Power enough, to make our Cup run over with an exceeding Abundance of Peace and Joy to all Eternity. Does not your Ladyship therefore often say, with Delight and Gratitude, Blessed be GOD for JESUS CHRIST?

I HAD taken my Place in the *London Stage*; but a Circumstance intervened, which prevented my Journey.—The Parcel which You sent to my Brother's, is come safe; and shall soon be returned to your Ladyship; either from the Press, or in Manuscript, which-ever You please to order. If your Ladyship determines for the former, I hope, You will be so good, as to favour me with an Answer to my last: that I may know your Resolution, with regard to the Honour I requested; and your Sentiments, with regard to the Manner of Publication.

I now make Amends for my usual Prolixity; and detain your Ladyship no longer, than to wish You a full Enjoyment of *the unsearchable Riches of CHRIST*, and to profess myself

Weston,
July 19, 1752.

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
and dutiful Servant.

L E T.

LETTER XXXVI.

MY LADY,

I HAVE been revolving in my Mind the Subject of your Ladyship's Discourse. I think, at the Close of the Conversation, You permitted me to act as I judged most expedient.—Am I mistaken, or did You allow me this Liberty?—If my Memory makes a true Report, I must not dissemble in my Opinion, no, not to gratify your Ladyship's Inclination. Though I know what You would prefer; yet, I cannot think it preferable, with regard to my little Essay.—I am persuaded, your Ladyship's Name would dignify the Piece, and give it an Air of Importance. Your Name would certainly recommend it to Multitudes; and considerably promote both its Acceptance and its Sale. Many would purchase it purely on that Account; as I myself did, when the Pamphlet entitled *Worldly Compliances* was advertised in the public Papers.

I CANNOT but wish, your Ladyship would, in this public Manner, countenance such Attempts for promoting the Glory of GOD. It seems to be one Kind of confessing our divine Master before Men: and who would not take every proper Opportunity of acknowledging Him in a degenerate Age, that denies even the LORD who bought them? Especially, since for our Sake He despised the Shame,
and

and endured the Torment of the Cross: since He is now set down at the right Hand of GOD, and those who honour Him in Time, He will honour before the Angels of Heaven, and through the Ages of Eternity.

SOME, I fancy, are apt to suspect, that None but tasteless Pedants, the dull Prisoners of a Study, have any Regard for such religious Stuff. Who, perhaps, might have a better Opinion of sacred Things, if they found them relished and patronized by Persons, qualified to grace a Court with their Presence: who are at once the most undoubted Judges, and the most admired Patterns, of all that is elegant and refined.

I NEED not remind your Ladyship, what an Honour it would reflect upon my Character, and how much it would raise my Esteem in the World, if I was known to be in the Number of your Ladyship's Correspondents. But, were not the other Considerations far more weighty, this Distinction, however valued, however coveted, should be readily resigned by

Tottenham, Your Ladyship's
July 24, 1752. most dutiful Servant.

L E T

LETTER XXXVII.

MY LADY,

TO what it was owing I cannot say, but I received not your Ladyship's Favour till Tuesday Night; and very early on Wednesday Morning, I set out for *Northampton*, in a new Machine called *The Berlin*. Which holds four Passengers; is drawn by a Pair of Horses; and driven in the Manner of a Post-Chaise.—On this Side *Newport*, We came up with a Stage-Coach, and made an Attempt to pass it. This the Coach-Man perceiving, mended his Pace: which provoked the Driver of the *Berlin* to do the same. Till they both lashed their Horses into a full Career; and were more like running a Race, than conveying Passengers. We very narrowly escaped falling foul on each other's Wheels. I called out to the Fellows, but to no Purpose. 'Tis possible, amidst the Rattle and Hurry, they did not hear: 'tis certain, they did not regard. Within the Space of a Minute or two, what I apprehended happened. My Vehicle was over-turned, and thrown with great Violence on the Ground. The Coachman was tossed off his Box, and lay bleeding in the Road.—There was only one Person in the Coach, and none but myself in the *Berlin*: yet neither of Us (so singular was the Goodness, so tender the Care of divine Providence!) sustained any considerable Hurt.

I received only a slight Bruise, and had the Skin rased from my Leg, where I might too reasonably have feared the Misfortune of broken Bones, dislocated Limbs, or a fractured Scull.

AND have I not, my Lady, have I not abundant Reason to adopt the Psalmist's *Acknowledgement*? *Thou hast delivered my Life from Death, mine Eyes from Tears, and my Feet from falling.*—Have I not abundant Reason, to make his grateful *Inquiry*? *What shall I render unto the LORD for all his Benefits towards me?*—And ought I not to add his holy *Resolution*? *I will walk before the LORD in the Land of the Living.* So long as this Life exists, which has been so wonderfully and mercifully preserved, it shall be devoted to the Honour of my great Deliverer. I hope to spend it all, under a reverential Sense of his divine Presence, and in a dutiful Regard to his heavenly Will.—May I be enabled thus to think, and thus to act! And may the same good Hand, which has rescued me out of Danger, keep your Ladyship from it: keep You from every Evil, and guide You safely to the Kingdom of Glory!

WITH regard to the Subject of your Ladyship's Letter, I acquiesce. I beg Pardon for my Importunity, and shall mention the Affair no more. And though I can hardly, in this Particular, submit my Judgment to your Opinion, I entirely resign my Desires to your Ladyship's Inclination.—If the little Piece is published, it shall be content to want

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the Ornament of your Ladyship's Name. But I hope, it will not be without the Aid of your Ladyship's Prayers: that the Honour of GOD's venerable and inestimable Word may, in some Degree, be advanced, by those Thoughts, which were wholly owing to your Command. I am sure, when I consider the Poverty of my own Genius, and observe the rich and bright Productions of other Minds, I can see nothing, whereon to ground any Hope of Success, but only the Blessing of an omnipotent and gracious GOD. Who, for the Glory of his own supreme Power and free Grace, is pleased out of the Mouth of very Babes and Sucklings to perfect Praise.

I BEG Leave to conclude with my very best Thanks, for that condescending Kindness which You lately shewed, and for that un-solicited Generosity which You lately offered, to

My Lady,

Weston,

Your Ladyship's much obliged,

Aug. 2, 1752.

and, I hope, ever grateful Servant;

L E T

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

MY LADY,

I HUMBLY thank You, for your very obliging Inquiry after my Health. Blessed be the Preserver of Man, I suffer no bad Effects from the late Danger I was in. What was torn by my Fall, is healed; and what was bruised, I feel no more.

SINCE that Deliverance, I have been at *Peterborough*; the City where our Bishop resides; in order to receive Institution to my other Living. On Sunday I gave my new Charge my first Sermon; O! that GOD may give both it, and them, his heavenly Benediction!—The Text was taken from that noble Declaration of the Apostle, in which He adores his GOD, and congratulates Himself, upon the unspeakable Privilege of being a Minister of the Gospel. *To me, who am less than the least of all Saints, is this Grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable Riches of CHRIST.* Eph. iii. 8.

SEE, my Lady, the eminent Humility of this illustrious Preacher. GOD had ennobled Him with Gifts, and enriched Him with Graces, above his Fellows. Yet He reckons Himself, not merely a Saint of the meaner Rank; no, nor the least in the holy Class; but *less than the least* among them all. It was with Him, as it is with some flourishing and stately Tree. The higher it lifts its Head

in the Air, the deeper it strikes its Root in the Soil. *III XXX*

THE *unsearchable Riches of CHRIST*, I hope, your Ladyship will every Day be more acquainted with, and have a larger Participation of. May You have them, and (as our gracious Master speaks on another Occasion) have them *more abundantly!*—Here let Us be covetous. Covetousness of these Treasures, is no sordid or ignoble Passion, but a generous and heavenly Disposition. Let Us *open our Mouths*, open our Desires wide, and the infinitely benevolent JESUS, in whom are hid all Riches of Merit and Righteousness, of Grace and Glory, will fill them. *Fill them* (they are the Words of his own Spirit) *with all the Fullness of GOD.*

MY late Journey and much Business have engrossed too much of my Time; and diverted me from preparing my little Piece for the Press. But it shall, if the LORD please, soon come abroad. It has been upon the Anvil a second Time; is somewhat altered, and somewhat enlarged. O that it may, whenever it appears, be a *polished Shaft* in the great IMMANUEL's Quiver!—I humbly beg of the worthy Doctor, whom I long have honoured, and long have loved, that He will recommend both the Performance and the Author to the Blessing of the most High GOD. And if GOD blesses, who shall blast? If GOD be for Us, who shall be against Us? HE has said, who is able to accomplish his Word—HE has said to his Servants,

and

and Those that engage in his sacred Cause, *Every Tongue that shall rise against Thee in Judgment, thou shalt condemn.*

As your Ladyship does not think proper to allow me the Honour of your Name, should You dislike some such *Preface* as the following?—The Reader will see, from the Date of the ensuing Letter, that it was written a considerable Time ago. From this Circumstance, He will probably imagine, that it was not intended for Publication. And in this Conjecture He is perfectly right. The Publication is owing to the honourable Personage, whose Name, though it would grace and recommend his Performance, the Author is not allowed to mention. Her Ladyship's Command, which would admit of no Excuse, drew the Remarks from his Pen; and her Desire, which with Him will always have the Force of a Command, has brought them to the Press.—It will give Him the greatest Pleasure, if, while He is paying the Debt of Obedience and Gratitude to a noble Friend, He may support the Dignity of the divine Word; may raise its Esteem, and promote its Study, among Men. Because then, He is assured, He shall also promote the best Interests of his Fellow-Creatures, and subserve that grand Designation of the almighty Majesty, expressed by the Psalmist, *Thou hast magnified thy WORD above all thy Name.* Psal. cxxxviii. 2. Be so good as to favour me with your Opinion of the foregoing.

I FORGOT to address your Ladyship in the polite Style. My Letters, I am told, especially that which is to be made public, must be introduced by the Title *Madam*. That it is awkward and ungenteel to use the Phrase, *my Lady*. Why would not You, Madam, who know these Points so well, tell me of my Fault? Tell me of my Rusticity? And let me receive some Polishing, as I receive much Pleasure, by corresponding with your Ladyship? Yet, however uncouth my Manner may have been, I beg Leave to assure You, my Heart is sincerely grateful: filled with the most ardent Wishes for your everlasting Happiness, and with the warmest Desires to approve myself in every Instance,

Weston,
Aug. 18, 1752.

Your Ladyship's most obedient
and dutiful Servant.

LETTER XXXIX.

MADAM,

YOUR last Favour has been in my Possession almost a Week. I should have made my Acknowledgements sooner, but I apprehended, from a Hint in your Letter, that your Ladyship would be from Home. This, I hope, will find You safely returned, and thankful to that all-condescending, that ever-gracious Preserver of Men, *who blesses our Go-*
ing

ing out and our Coming in. O! may We also be enabled, from our inmost Soul, to bless his holy Name, from this Time forth for evermore!

I AM much obliged to your Ladyship for your benevolent Prayers, in behalf of the weakest of CHRIST's Ministers. May they go up with Acceptance through the Blood of the Lamb, and return with an abundant Encrease into your own Bosom!

I HAVE received no Franks from Lord N——n; and there is no Member of Parliament in this Neighbourhood, that I either am acquainted with, or can make Application to. For which Reason, if your Ladyship could furnish me with a few, they would be peculiarly welcome. Especially as I have already begun to transmit the Copy of my intended Pamphlet to London. Two Sheets, closely written, are already gone; and I have, at least, four others to go. Upon reviewing my Remarks, and comparing them with his Lordship's Letters, I thought it necessary to animadvert upon some other Particulars. Which have considerably augmented the Size, O! may they also encrease the Usefulness of the Piece!

To leave out the Word *Ladyship* in the little Preface, I think, will not answer the End, You are pleased to propose. Because, the Title occurs more than once or twice in the Course of the Letter. I hope, therefore your Ladyship will not be displeased, if I take Leave to retain it.—I think, to entitle it

in the following Manner—"Remarks on *Lord Bellingbroke's* Letters on the Study and Use of History; so far as they relate to the History of the Old Testament; and especially to the Case of *Noah*, denouncing a Curse upon *Canaan*. In a Letter to a Lady of Quality."—I must now endeavour to imitate the Psalmist, and make my humble Petition to Almighty GOD in his very apposite Words; *Prosper the Work of our Hands upon Us, O! prosper Thou our Handy-Work!* He can make it, weak and mean as it is, a polished Arrow in his Quiver. To his omnipotent Blessing I desire to commit the little Adventurer; and would depend wholly upon his Providence to give it Favour and Acceptance; to bring it into such Hands, and grant it Access to such Hearts, as He knows to be most expedient. And let me congratulate your Ladyship and myself, that We have so infinitely good, so un-erringly wise a GOD, to fly to, rely on, and rejoice in. May We walk with Him; wait on Him continually; and know by sweet, Soul-reviving, Soul-exalting Experience what that meaneth, *Our Fellowship is with the Father and with his Son CHRIST JESUS!*—That You may be a daily Proficient in this Knowledge, and an unspeakable everlasting Gainer by this Communion, is and shall be the sincere Prayer of,

Madam,

Weston,

Aug. 29, 1752.

Your Ladyship's most obliged,

and most obedient Servant,

L E T-

L E T T E R XL.

MADAM,

I RECEIVED the Honour of your Letter, and the Favour of your Franks, by the last Post; and very sincerely thank your Ladyship for the Supply. I cannot omit the very first Opportunity of making this Acknowledgement. Especially, because I perceive, You have condescended to make a Request in my Behalf; and have thereby (which to a generous and noble Spirit must be somewhat grating) put it into the Power of Another to affront You by a Refusal: and a Refusal so much the more ungentle and dis-obliging, as the Thing asked was so slight and inconsiderable.

I CAN hardly forbear blushing, vulgar and unpollite as I am, at such a paultry Trick. And I am unfeignedly sorry, that your Ladyship should meet with such unhandsome Treatment on my Account. But, my honour'd Madam, mind it not. Smile rather at the poor, contracted, ungenerous Temper of worldly Men.—See also, by this Contrast, the real Dignity of religious Persons, and the true Elevation of their Sentiments. Let me speak to dear George Whitefield; and, be it for myself, or be it for any Acquaintance, instead of demurring, instead of forming Excuses, He will embrace the Proposal with an apparent Complacency. He will leave

no Stone un-turned; He will spare no Pains; to gratify my Inclination, and accomplish my Desire. And why? Because He esteems and loves his Friend, not with a superficial Civility, but from a Principle of Grace, and in the Bowels of CHRIST.

MY Lord does not know me, 'tis true. But He, or his Brother had Reason to know my Father. I have heard Him relate, with what Zeal He served the *Major*; when the Earl of ——— pushed Him hard for his Election at ———. That He was one of his honourary Freeman; and against such a tumultuous and enraged Party, as made Him run a Risque of his Limbs and of his Life, and not without the Expence of some Guineas. For which He never had the least Gratuity; not so much as a Piece of Venison. Though He was always remarkably stanch and sanguine for their parliamentary Interests.—And is this the Conduct of the Grandees of the Earth? This their Kindness to their Friends? Let me then for ever say with the Prophet, *Cease Ye from Man, whose Breath is in his Nostrils*—who minds his own, and not Another's Welfare—for *where-in is He to be accounted of?*

COME, Madam, let Us take a generous Revenge. Let Us beseech the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, to bless *Him* with the Knowledge of CHRIST, and with all the Riches of his Gospel; who had not Benevolence enough, to grant so small a Boon to me; and had so little Honour, as to deny your Ladyship, when You vouchsafed to ask so trivial

vial a Favour.—I hope, You will be enabled *thus* to triumph over the little ruffling Accidents, that occur in Life. I hope, this Exercise of christian Magnanimity, will be easy and delightful to You. And may I have Grace to imitate your Ladyship, as You imitate our divine, ever gentle, all-forgiving Master! Then perhaps the meanest of your Correspondents may, in this Respect, be greater than a Lord.

DID I mention our *divine Master*? How should the Remembrance of HIS Name, enkindle our Hearts, when they are cold; and calm them, when they are discomposed! — Speak We of *Greatness*? How great is HE! He made the World, by his bare *Fiat*. He has, ever since, upheld it by his mighty Word. He will, ere long, give Command, and the Flames shall destroy it. He will repeat his Command, and new Heavens, and a new Earth shall arise.—Speak We of *Goodness*? How good is HE! When We were ruined and undone, *He remembered Us in our low Estate*. When We were Enemies to Him, and had affronted Him by our evil Works; *He loved Us with an infinite and everlasting Love*. When We had merited no Favour, nothing but Vengeance at his Hands; He gave — O! what did He give? Not a few Scraps of Paper; not a Coronet, and its attendant Honours; no, nor a whole World, nor a whole Heaven; but what was in-expressibly more valuable, He gave his sublime, his glorious, his adorable SELF for Us! —

O!

O! let Us think of this. May GOD reveal this amazing Beneficence, this wonderously rich Gift in our Souls; then all earthly Things, whether they be smiling or frowning, whether they cross or coincide with our Wishes, will be *less than Nothing and Vanity.*

My Piece is now all gone to the Press. I should have been very glad, if Your Ladyship and Doctor Hales had seen the Additions. My Mind smites me. I fear, I have acted too precipitately. Such a Performance ought to be mature and well-judged. It must expect to meet with a vigorous Examination, and from Readers that are none of the least sagacious, and none of the most candid. May the GOD of all Power and all Grace, pity my Weakness; and prosper this poor Shepherd-Boy, with his Stone and his Sling!—I will no longer trespass upon your Patience, but only beg Leave to profess myself, with the greatest Respect, and warmest Gratitude,

Weston,
Sept. 3, 1752.

Your Ladyship's most obliged
and most obedient Servant.

L E T T E R XLI.

MADAM,

I FULLY intended, on this very Morning, to have made my Acknowledgements for the Honour of your Letter, and for the Franks it contained. But Business of an urgent Nature intervened, and rendered it impossible for me to execute my Design, soon enough for the Post. I am sincerely concerned, on Account of this Disappointment; because, it must make me appear more ungrateful than I really am; and it may create in your Ladyship some Apprehensions, that your last Letter was mis-carried. Which, considering the Contents, to a Person of Honour and Delicacy, must be very disagreeable.

I ONCE more beg of You, Madam, to pardon every Expression in my last, which, warm, unguarded, or disrespectful to Superiors, escaped from my Pen. The Truth is, I willingly indulged the Motions of a little kindling Resentment, with a View of mitigating your Ladyship's. Imagining, that if I gave some Vent to mine, it might tend to extinguish or diminish your's. Somewhat like the Operation, which, I think, our Physicians call a *Revulsion*. When, at any Wound, the Loss of Blood has been large, and it still continues to flow, they

they open a Vein in some remote Part, and by diverting the Course, stop the Effusion.

I AM very glad to find, that there was no Occasion for such a well-meant, though ill-judged Artifice.—May your Ladyship have an entire Command over those turbulent Affections, which too often shew the Tyrant within! and which, where-ever they domineer, make the Soul *like a troubled Sea, that cannot rest*.—May You, every Day, grow more *meek and lowly in Heart!* This is the Way to calm or prevent the Storm in the Breast, and obtain a settled Serenity of Mind.—This is the Blessing, promised under the Gospel Dispensation, and described by those figurative Expressions: *The Lion shall lie down with the Lamb: They shall beat their Swords into Plough-Shares, and their Spears into Pruning-Hooks: The rough Places shall be made smooth, and the crooked Places strait*.—This is one distinguished and precious Fruit of the Spirit; and this was most eminently and amiably exemplified, in the Conduct of our divine Master. When treated with the most contumelious, with insufferable Indignity; He only remonstrated, with the utmost Gentleness, *If I have spoke Evil, bear Witness of the Evil: if well, why smitest Thou me?* When He hung, in racking Agonies, and amidst cruel Mockings, on the Cross; instead of expressing the least Indignation, He prayed, He pleaded, He procured Mercy, even for his Revilers and Murtherers. *Father, forgive them,* was his Prayer. *For, they know not what they do,* was his

his Plea. And the Salvation of his blood-thirsty Enemies, was the Consequence of both.

IF You should enquire after the little Piece, I can hardly give any Account of it. Printing seems to be slow Work. I don't find, that so much as a single Sheet is worked off; though they have had the Manuscript almost three Weeks. The very first that is finished, and fit for Perusal, will take Leave to wait upon your Ladyship. And may the Blessing of HIM, who once was hanged on the Tree, but now sits on the Throne, for ever attend your Ladyship, and what owes its Being to your Commands on,

Weston, Sept. 21,
Thursday.

Your most obliged
and obedient Servant.

L E T T E R XLII.

MADAM,

IT is a long Time, since I had the Pleasure of writing to You; and it is longer still, since I had the Honour of hearing from You. Will your Ladyship permit me to assure You, that, though I have not troubled You with my Letters, I daily remember your Favours with unfeigned Gratitude, and your Welfare with affectionate Prayers.

I HAD Hopes of presenting You, long before this Time, with those Remarks in Print, which You so candidly

candidly received in Manuscript. But the Printer, notwithstanding my particular Request, that the Piece might be worked off with Expedition, thinks proper to delay : and takes some Months for a little Business, which, I should think, might be dispatched in a Fortnight.—What can I do? When a Person travels in a Stage-Coach, He must go the Pace, not which He chuses, but which the Driver pleases.—I trust, however, there is a secret Providence over-ruling such Affairs : and that HE who sits at the Helm of his Church, *orders all*, even the minutest Circumstances, *in Number, Weight, and Measure*. The particular Conjunction and proper Season of Things, it is plain, He very exactly observes. For He said, on a memorable Occasion, *My Time is not yet come*. O ! that We may chearfully commit Ourselves and all our Affairs to his un-erring Guidance !

WHILE I write this, a Packet arrives from my Bookseller, which informs me, that the Pamphlet will soon be finished. He sends for the Title-Page. Which is the last Part that is printed. Now it is going to launch into the World, may the GOD of Heaven and Earth give it a propitious Gale and a prosperous Voyage ! That it may bring some Honour to the blessed JESUS, and support the Dignity of his holy Word. Then it will bring a greater Pleasure to the Author, than a Fleet of Merchant-Men brings to the Owners, when it returns laden with the choicest Spices of the East.

I HAVE

I HAVE a Request to make your Ladyship. But am so straitened for Time, that I must defer it till another Post. Would your Ladyship advise me, to ask Dr. *Hales*, whether it might be proper, by his means, to beg of her Royal Highness to accept the Pamphlet? And, whether it would be impertinent to offer it to the *Bishop of Norwich*, or disrespectful to omit it? Shall I promise myself your Opinion on these Points, and take the Liberty to declare by the ensuing as well as by the present Post, how respectfully and unfeignedly I am

Weston,
Oct. 29, 1752.

Your Ladyship's most obliged
and obedient Servant.

L E T T E R XLIII.

MADAM,

THE Request I am going to make, wants the *less* Apology, because it was mentioned in my last. Or rather permit me to say, it wants *no* Apology, because I am persuaded, your Desire is to *be* good, and your Delight is to *do* Good.

I WELL remember, and should abhor myself if I was capable of forgetting, the generous Offer You made me, when I was honoured with your Ladyship's Company in London. I had then enough for
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myself, and sufficient to spare for the Relief of others. But now re-iterated Expences, and larger than I expected, and not yet ended, have almost totally exhausted my Purse. And I am not likely to receive any Rents, which may set me again upon rising Ground, for a considerable Time.—This unavoidably straitens my Hands, and makes me incapable of distributing to the Necessities of the Indigent, so liberally as I could wish. Will You, Madam, give me Leave, at this Juncture especially, to act as your Almoner? I believe, I could put about ten Pounds to very good Interest for your Ladyship. A little Linen, for those who are half naked; and an edifying Book, for those who are deplorably ignorant; might, I trust, be acceptable to GOD our Saviour, and serviceable to those, whom He has bought with his Blood.—If this Petition should come at a Season, when it may be in any Degree inconvenient, or unsuitable to your Ladyship's Inclination; then, I make it my farther Request, that You will please to answer it, not by making any Excuse for your Refusal, but by taking no Notice at all of it. Which will be perfectly satisfactory to me.—I can, I assure You, act an *implicit* Faith on your Ladyship; and believe, You have excellent Reasons for your Conduct, though they should be hid from my Knowledge. But such is my Weakness, (O! that I may blush and be confounded under a Sense of it!) I can hardly do the same, with regard to the unerring and ever-gracious GOD. Can hardly acquiesce, and
be

be chearfully, be thankfully resigned, when HE is pleased to relax the Springs of Life, and *bring down my Strength in my Journey.* LORD, *encrease our Faith*, is a Supplication, which We should often address to the Throne of Grace.

You will very soon receive the Pamphlet, which may be properly called *your own* : *Your own*, where it is pertinent or valuable ; *mine*, where it is weak or injudicious. I shall take the Liberty, unless You counter-mand me in the Interim, to have it directed for your Ladyship, and left at Lady ———.

MAY the Prince of Peace give You Peace always and by all Means. Which cannot be granted to your Ladyship, without imparting a singular Satisfaction to

	Madam,
Weston,	Your most obliged
Oct. 31, 1752.	and most obedient Servant.

L E T T E R XLIV.

MADAM,

YOUR Answer to my Letter, and what it contained, puts me in Mind of one very remarkable Circumstance in *Jael's* Conduct : of whom it is said, in the sacred Ode, *He asked WATER, and She gave Him MILK.* I asked a Boon, and your

Gift has exceeded, has doubled my Request. May the LORD JESUS CHRIST do so to You, and more also !

I HUMBLY thank your Ladyship in behalf of the Poor ; and I beseech my divine Master, to make me a faithful Steward, both to Him and to You. I will keep an exact Account of the Distribution of your Alms, and be ready to submit it to your Inspection, whenever You please.—I clearly perceive, from your generous Grant, that You give me Leave to employ any Part of it for my own Accommodation. And I am altogether as much obliged to your Ladyship, as if I should make Use of it for my own Accommodation. But, blessed be the divine Providence, I am in no *personal* Want ; only I have, at present, no Overplus for beneficent Purposes. And as Life, mine especially, is so very precarious, I am unwilling to run in Debt, even for the Sake of Charity.—No other Debt I mean, but that of Gratitude. And it will not be a Burthen upon my Spirits, but the Delight of my Heart, always to owe this to your Ladyship.

I WILL give Directions to my Bookseller to send three of the Pamphlets to Dr. *Hales* ; and one to your Ladyship, to be left at Lady ———. And I shall not neglect to pray, that You may enjoy the precious Promise, recorded by that charming and most consolatory Writer, the Prophet *Isaiah*. *Then shall thy Light break forth as the Morning, and thine Health shall spring forth speedily : and thy Righteous-*
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ness shall go before thee ; the Glory of the LORD shall be thy Rere-ward. Thou shalt call, and the LORD shall answer : thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I am. Isaiah lviii. 8, 9. May all that is included in these Words, all that was merited by the Redeemer's Death, be the Portion of your Ladyship. And this will amount to a Happiness, greater than can be conceived ; but is that very Happiness, which is most earnestly wished for your Ladyship, by

Weston,
Nov. 4, 1752.

Your greatly obliged,
and truly grateful
humble Servant.

L E T T E R XLV.

MADAM,

GLAD should I be, very glad, if I could as effectually administer Consolation to your Mind, under every Distress ; as I can assuredly promise the most inviolable Fidelity, in every Affair, which You are pleased to communicate, under the Seal of Secrecy.—However, I can apply to HIM, who spoke the tempestuous Ocean into a Calm ; and is able to speak the troubled Soul into Tran-

quillity.—*I create the Fruit of the Lips, saith the LORD*; which shall be, *Peace, Peace.* Isai. lvii.

19. The Repetition of the Word, I believe, denotes the Certainty, the Abundance, and the Permanency of the Peace; which is created by GOD, and is the Fruit of his Word; spoken by the Mouth, and committed to the Writings, of his Prophets and Apostles.—In all our Disquietudes therefore, my honoured Madam, let Us seek, by assiduous Application, to the Scriptures of Truth; and by humble Prayer, to the GOD of all Grace. The former was *David's* Resolution; *In the LORD's Word will I rejoice; in the LORD's Word will I comfort me.* The latter was *Hannah's* Practice; when *her Adversary provoked her sore, to make her fret*; She poured out her Complaint unto the LORD, and shewed Him of her Trouble. And the Burthen was removed from her Spirits; her Countenance was no more sad. (1 Sam. i.)

METHINKS, I could almost wish, that, whatever Buffetings of Satan I myself may feel, your Ladyship might be exposed to none of his fiery Darts. But it *can* not, it *must* not be. Even You, Madam, must be exercised with Trials. Without them, Diligence would fold her Arms; Circumspection would close her Eyes; and all our Christian Graces would lose their Activity and Vigour. To be immured always in a warm Room, where no single Breath of Air could reach Us, could not be conducive to the Health of our Bodies. To be free
from

from Trials, and exempt from Temptations, would be as little beneficial to the State of the Soul.— Nevertheless, be of good Comfort, my Lady. You know, Who has said; *My Grace is sufficient for Thee*. And it was the Saying of a good Man, a Veteran in the spiritual Warfare; “ Those Temptations, which drive Us to Prayer, and make Us more attentive to the Scriptures, can not ruin Us; will never hurt Us; nay, will turn, in the Issue, to our great Advantage.”

AT such Seasons, and by such Disciplines, We are taught to know Ourselves. Where—at such an Hour of Infirmary and prevailing Corruption—where is our fancied Righteousness? What Figure does our own Obedience make? Alas! it appears worthless, and most despicably mean. Then how comfortable to reflect, that, though miserably defective in Ourselves, *We are complete in our divine Redeemer*.—When We see our own Righteousnesses, to be poor intermitted Scraps of Duty; to be, as the Prophet speaks, no better than *filthy Rags*; then how precious is JESUS CHRIST, under the Character of *The LORD our Righteousness*! Then how reviving is such a Text of Scripture; *GOD hath made Him, who knew no Sin, to be Sin for Us; that We might be made the Righteousness of GOD IN Him!* 2 Cor. v. 21.

You do right, Madam, to overcome Evil with Good. This is a noble Conquest. May the Arm of the Almighty enable You to gain many such

Victories ! — You act also from the right Principle. No Consideration can so powerfully incline Us to forgive, as the bright Hope, and chearing Prospect of our own Forgiveness. Since GOD has remitted to Us a Debt of ten thousand, thousand Talents ; shall We not readily remit a few Pence to our offending Brethren ? It is St. Paul's Argument, and a most engaging Argument it is ; *Be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as GOD for CHRIST's Sake HATH forgiven You.* May the Spirit of eternal Goodness confirm your Ladyship in this Faith ! Give You a happy Persuasion, that all your Sins are blotted out by the Blood of the Lamb ; that, though there are and will be Failings in You, yet there is no Condemnation for You ! This will promote and facilitate the Exercise of every Virtue ; just as a generous Cordial, exhilarates the Spirits, invigorates the Limbs, and sheds its benign Influence through the whole Frame.

You need not ask my Prayers for your Ladyship. I must extinguish the warmest Emotions of my Soul, before I can cease to wish, and make Supplication for, your present Comfort, and endless Happiness. And, blessed be GOD, there is a great High-Priest in Heaven, who ever lives to make Intercession for You ; and not only makes Intercession, but pleads all his meritorious Obedience and Death in your Behalf. To His Care, who careth for You with the tenderest and everlasting Compassion, I commit
your

your Ladyship; and beg Leave to subscribe myself

Your most obliged,

and truly grateful

humble Servant,

Weston,
Nov. 7, 1752,

P. S. I cannot forbear repeating my Thanks; since You have been pleased to make a repeated Tender of your Liberality. I assure your Ladyship, that your late Donation is abundantly sufficient for my charitable Demands; that I am in no Want on my own Account; but very much delighted with your truly noble and endearing Manner of offering your Favours.

I AM afraid, your judicious Advice comes too late. I am apprehensive, the Pamphlet will be advertised, before my Letter can possibly reach my Bookseller. And if the Day for Publication is fixed, in several of the Papers, it cannot be altered, without infringing upon the established Laws of Trade. However, I will write; and if it be a practicable Thing, will regulate and grace my Conduct by your Ladyship's Counsel.

LET.

LETTER XLVI.

MADAM,

I AM ashamed to plead Haste, as an Excuse for Negligence or Brevity, when I have the Honour of writing to your Ladyship. But at present the Case is unavoidable; therefore, I hope, the Apology will be admitted. The Truth is—Sunday is come, and I have not so much as thought upon a Text. May the un-erring Spirit of CHRIST direct my Choice, and enable me rightly to divide the Word of Truth!

I HOPE, before this Time, the Remarks on Lord B——e, have waited on your Ladyship, and been received with your usual Candour.—There is one egregious Blunder committed by the Printer. Which, I fear, will make the Passage quite un-intelligible. Can You tell, how to understand the latter Part of Line 20, Page 67?—Wh— is plain. But what else should be read with these Letters? Many Readers, I am apprehensive, will be at a Loss to supply the Connection. In those Copies, which were transmitted to me, I have altered it thus—Whose Me—then the Sense is clear. Thus it was in the original Manuscript; and I wish, your Ladyship would take the Trouble, of writing it thus in your Copy. And if You please to suggest the same Hint to *Dr. Hales*, You would do me another Favour. Whose Ministration to Her Royal Highness, and Interviews
with

with your Ladyship, I hope, the GOD of Heaven will make effectual to the Furtherance of your Faith, and Encrease of your Joy in the blessed JESUS. To whose tender Care, and everlasting Love, I commit your Ladyship; and beg Leave to profess myself,

Weston,
Nov. 12, 1752.

Your most obliged,
and most obedient Servant.

P. S. I HAD written a short Letter to the Doctor, before I was favour'd with your Ladyship's Hint. And am glad, my Conduct was so happy as to correspond with your Ladyship's Advice.

L E T T E R XLVII.

MADAM,

PERMIT me to trouble You with another short Scribble; in order to beg Pardon for a Mistake, which, I find, has been committed. Four Setts of the Remarks, I perceive, have been sent to your Ladyship; at the same Time, not one was transmitted to *Dr. Hales*. I have explained to the *Doctor* the Cause of this Blunder; and from Him, I beg of your Ladyship to satisfy Yourself, and receive an Excuse for me.

IF

IF your Ladyship discerns any Thing improper in the Additions, I have made; or if You hear any Censures passed, upon any Part of the Performance; let me entreat You to communicate them to the Author. That, in Case another Edition is required, (which my Bookseller mentions as no improbable Affair) some suitable Corrections may be made.

GIVE me Leave to conclude with wishing, that the inestimable Word, which You have animated me to vindicate, may dwell in your Ladyship richly. Dwell in your Memory; dwell in your Affections; dwell in your Heart; and be influential on all your Conversation. A greater Happiness I could not wish, for the most generous Friend in the World; therefore it is the Happiness most earnestly wish'd for your Ladyship, by

Weston,

Your most obedient

Nov. 16, 1752.

and ever grateful Servant,

LETTER XLVIII.

MADAM,

MAY I ask, How You have acquired the Art, of conferring real Favours, on the Occasion of imaginary Wants? I little thought, that the ambiguous Representation of my late Confinement, would

would have brought me under a new Obligation to your Ladyship. But indeed your kind Intention of procuring a GREAT Sum, to extricate me from the Difficulties, in which You supposed me to be involved, has drawn a proportionably large Bill upon my Gratitude.

I THANK You, Madam, for what You intended, as well as for what You have conferred. Yet, if I know my own Heart, I should suffer much, before I could prevail upon myself to draw your Ladyship into such Trouble. Should I, to remedy the Effects of my own Mis-Conduct, straiten, perplex, and embarrass a generous noble Friend? The Thought grieves me: the Action itself would wound me.

YET, how often have I read, that, to make me rich, the LORD of all Things *had not where to lay his Head*. To obtain Joy and Gladness for me, the Prince of Peace was sorrowful, *sorrowful even unto Death*. To cleanse me from all Guilt, to present me without Spot or Blemish before his Throne, the ever-blessed Son of GOD was content to spill the last Drop of his Blood.—How often have I read all this, yet continued un-affected, and stupidly insensible!—May your Ladyship's Heart glow with Gratitude, overflow with Thankfulness, on every Remembrance of this adored and gracious Redeemer. May I be smitten with Remorse, and overwhelmed with Shame, for my vile, vile Ingratitude to so divinely compassionate a Saviour. And so much the more, the more I am assured of his Readiness to
forgive

forgive all my Provocations, and to love me as freely as if I had never offended.

I AM much obliged to your Ladyship for taking the Trouble of transmitting the Sentiments of your critical Acquaintance. If I live to write another Letter, I will return my Opinion with Relation to them—This is designedly short; to correspond with my weak State of Health. For I am again confined: though, blessed be GOD, not “in Durance
“vile.” I preached on Sunday; and, I believe, renewed my Cold: so that this Morning I have lost my Voice. But I thank the divine Providence, that I have a Hand to write a Word of CHRIST, though my Tongue is disabled for speaking of the pleasing Subject.—What a dying Life is mine! Every Blast pierces me, and every Cold crushes me. Blessed, for ever blessed be GOD through CHRIST, for a better Life and happier State in the Heavens. Where We shall be languid no more, afflicted no more; and (O! delightful Consideration!) be ungrateful to the dying JESUS no more, sin against the ever-amiable GOD no more.—May your Ladyship have many Foretastes of this blisful State, here on Earth; and, in due Time, an abundant Entrance into the Fulness of its Joy!—Permit me the Pleasure and the Honour of subscribing myself,

Madam,

Your most obliged
most obedient Servant.

L E T-

Weston,

Dec. 5, 1752.

L E T T E R XLIX.

MADAM,

IN my last, I promised to lay before your Ladyship, what I apprehend to be a more correct Sense of Gen. ix. 25. That which I have given, is, I think, an undoubted Truth; is deducible from the original Words; and is not without its Patrons. But the Sense, in which, upon more mature Consideration, I should chuse to understand the Passage, is—Curfed is *Ham*, cursed is *Canaan*. Their Guilt is chargeable upon themselves alone. They are the sole Authors of their own Sin, and the sole Causes of their own Ruin. Whereas, *blessed be*, or blessed is (not *Shem* primarily and principally) but *the LORD GOD of Shem*.—Who is the Cause of all the Good, that exists in, or is performed by, any of his People. He works in them both to will and do, according to his Good Pleasure. Not unto them therefore, not unto them, but unto their GOD and Saviour be all the Glory.

THUS far I had written, when an Incident called me off; and rendered it impossible for me to finish, soon enough for the last Post.—When I sat down to pen the preceding, We were visited by a remarkable Stranger. One, who has not been seen in all these Parts, for many Months. Fair to Admiration. But, like all her Sister-Beauties, fading and
extremely

extremely transient.—Perhaps, your Ladyship may conjecture, Whom or What I mean. I mean a Flight of Snow: which fell in the Night; and, during the Space of about half a Day, covered our Fields. I am pleased with the Appearance of this wintry Guest; because it gives me a fine Idea of that spotless Purity, which, I trust, your Ladyship will derive, from the precious Blood of CHRIST.

How endearing are his Words, and how ineffable his Promise! *Come now, and let Us reason together, saith the LORD. Though your Sins be as Scarlet, they shall be as white as Snow; though they be red like Crimson, they shall be as Wool.* Isai. i. 18.—How noble is the Declaration, and how triumphant the Faith of *David*, speaking upon the same Subject! *Thou shalt purge me with Hyssop, and I shall be clean: thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than Snow.*—These Passages must certainly refer to the Blood of the everlasting Covenant, without which there is no Remission. They cannot but relate to that Blood of the LAMB, *which taketh away the Sins of the World.* And is not this a Proof of his real Divinity? For if no Man, no Creature, can take away *any* Sin: how great must HE be, how infinitely glorious, who can take away ALL Sins! So entirely take them away, that not the least Spot or Blemish shall remain.

SINCE our LORD is very GOD; the Maker of ALL Things, and Upholder of the Universe; the King of Angels, and Judge of Men; no Wonder,

der, such Efficacy attends the Sacrifice of his Death. No Wonder, that his People, washed in his Blood, and arrayed in his Righteousness, should be found unblameable and unreprouable. The Mountain Snows are not so white, the Garden Lillies are not so fair, the Stars of Heaven are not so bright, as those blessed happy Souls, who have *put on the LORD JESUS CHRIST*. — What Reason have We, Madam, what abundant Reason, to rejoice in such a Saviour, and to make our Boast of such a Saviour! Let Us study his inconceivable Dignity, and implore the Influences of that blessed Spirit, whose Office it is, to testify of CHRIST, and reveal Him in our Hearts.

I SHOULD be much delighted to join your honourable and devout Assembly at the Countess Delits's. Though debarred of this Pleasure on Earth, I hope to enjoy it in Heaven. In the mean Time, I most heartily pray, that great Power may accompany my dear Friend's Preaching, and great Grace be on all your Souls. That You may *be stedfast in Faith, and fervent in Spirit: and serving the LORD*, adorning his Gospel, *and rejoicing in Hope of his everlasting Glory*. — These Blessings I take Leave to wish for your Ladyship, and my other noble Friends, at the approaching Solemnity. These Blessings, if vouchsafed from above, will make a Festival in the Heart: even that Festival, which the Prophet so beautifully describes, under the Image of a magnificent and sumptuous Banquet. *Isai. xxv. 6, 7, 8, 9.*

At this more than royal Banquet may You, Madam, have a distinguished Seat; and may some Crumbs from the Table, fall to the Share of,

Your Ladyship's obliged,

Weston,
Dec. 21, 1752.

obedient, grateful,

humble Servant,

LETTER L.

MADAM,

MY Brother, I dare say, esteems it an Honour and a Pleasure to execute your Commands. And I am apt to think, all your Ladyship's Commands are of such a Nature, as to be Benefits, rather than Tasks. They are calculated for the Advantage of Others, more than for your own. Somewhat like the Precepts of our divine Master, all whose *Prohibitions* import, *Do thyself no Harm*: and all his *Injunctions* imply, Possess the highest Good.

THAT awful Stroke of sudden Death, which your obliging Letter mentions, will, I hope, be blessed to your Ladyship's spiritual Improvement. Such alarming Instances of human Frailty, are, I think, one Species of that Wisdom, which *crieth without, and uttereth her Voice in the Streets*. And this is the Purport of the Admonition; *Take Ye Heed; watch and pray: for Ye know not, when the*
Time

Time is. Cultivate a more incessant Communion with GOD: live, by Faith, on the Merits of his dear Son: cherish all the Influences of his blessed Spirit. Then will You not only not be in Bondage through Fear of Death, but shall taste somewhat of Heaven even upon Earth. And when the Moment of Dissolution comes, You shall change your Place, not your Company; You shall relinquish your Clay, but lose none of your Joys.

Would your Ladyship see in another Light, What is our proper Preparation for all Changes—How We may be fortified against all the Vicissitudes of Life, and against the final Approach of Death—Be pleased to peruse Revel. xii. 1. Those, who are arrayed like that illustrious Woman; affected like Her; adorned like Her; they are fitted for every Alteration. They need fear no Evil. To them, to live is CHRIST, and to die will be Gain.—I give my Answer in these Words, because they are very picturesque, and exceedingly striking. They will be a fine Subject for your Ladyship's Meditation. And I most sincerely wish, that You may know them, more and more, by your own Experience; till You arrive at that happy Place, and enter into those blissful Mansions, where the Scene of this noble Vision lay, and where alone true Felicity is to be found.

I HAVE lately comforted the Heart of a poor old Saint and his infirm Wife, with Part of your charitable Donation. And am going to order some

Relief, to an ancient Widow and her afflicted Daughter; whose Distresses, were I to relate them, would pierce your Heart with Sorrow. And, I trust, it will give You equal Joy to reflect, that the Father of Mercies is pleased to make Use of your Ladyship's Instrumentality, in administering Comfort amidst such great Tribulation.

GIVE me Leave, before I conclude, to turn the Declaration of a Prince and an Apostle, into a Prayer for your Ladyship. *May the Blessing of Him that is ready to perish come upon You!* May You cause the Heart of many Widows to sing for Joy! And, in your own Heart, have much of that *Kingdom of GOD which is not Meat and Drink, but Righteousness, and Peace, and Joy in the Holy Ghost!*—May I ask, When those Papers make their Appearance, which the worthy *Dr. Hales* so often mentioned; and for the Publication of which, if I remember right, the Month of January was fixed, in a Letter to

Weston, Your Ladyship's most obliged
Jan. 23, 1752. and very obedient humble Servant.

L E T.

L E T T E R L I.

MADAM,

I AM really in Suspence, I must beg of You to determine, Whether I have done right or wrong. A Fortnight, almost a whole Fortnight, have I been in Possession of your Ladyship's Letter; without making any Acknowledgements for the Favour, till this Day.—The Truth is, I have been sadly indisposed; languid and dispirited; out of Humour with myself, and displeased with my own Thoughts. And should I, in such a disagreeable Habit, appear before your Ladyship? Should I present to my honourable Friend, what was disgusting even to myself?—As You shall decide this Question, I will condemn or acquit the Prisoner at the Bar; and will continue or alter my Practice accordingly.

METHINKS, I see You smile at Us fanciful and hippish Folks. Smile, my Lady, and welcome. Only do not think me insensible of the Honour of your Correspondence, nor altogether ungrateful for the various Instances of your Generosity. Such a Suspicion would afflict me, more than a foggy Day, or a louring Sky.

In a Letter, which some Time ago, I had the Pleasure of writing to your Ladyship, there are two Passages, which may possibly want some farther

Proof, or some clearer Explication.—The Character of CHRIST, *I am Alpha and Omega*, pag. 67. lin. 15.—The Remark on the Books of *Chronicles*, pag. 70. in the Note.—Will You give me Leave, Madam, to illustrate the former, and to exemplify the latter? In both which, I hope, We shall find Manna, heavenly Manna, for the Nourishment of our Faith: and not be obliged to gather it, from the Thorns of Controversy.

THE Character of our LORD, makes a Part of the *Revelation*, vouchsafed to St. John. Revel. i. 8. In which, We are entertained, We are struck, We are transported, with the grandest Images that ever were conceived, and the sublimest Descriptions that ever were drawn. We may challenge *Homer*, challenge *Pindar*, and defy their most devoted Admirers, to produce a Parellel.—A Parellel! No. The Imagery of the Apostle, is somewhat like the Person of his IMMANUEL. Whose Appearance—not his Vengeance, not his Wrath, not his Frown—but his *bare Appearance*, is insupportably splendid and glorious. Nothing in Nature can vie with it. Nothing in Nature can stand before it. *From his Face the Earth and the Heaven flee away, and there is found no Place for them.* Revel. xx. 11.

IN this Book, the Images occur more frequently, and the Colour is more brilliant, than in any other, even, of the sacred Compositions. It was intended to close the canonical Writings; and is not unlike
a Capital

a Capital of Gems, on a Column of Gold. Or, to speak more properly, it closes them with a Dignity, that must always be admired; but will never be equalled; perhaps, never fully understood, till We enter into that City, *which hath no Need of the Sun, neither of the Moon to shine in it; for the Glory of GOD doth lighten it, and the Lamb is the Light thereof.* Revel. xxi. 23.

To a Person of true Taste, and free from Prejudice, this, I think, is no inconsiderable Argument for the *divine* Original of the Work. Whence could an illiterate Fisherman, have been furnished with such inimitably noble Ideas, but from the immediate Influence of Heaven? How could this plain, artless, and un-improved Mind soar so high; so far above all the Flights of human Genius; were it not upon the Wings of Inspiration?

How solemn and alarming is the Introduction! *I was in the Spirit on the LORD's Day, and heard behind me a great Voice, as of a Trumpet.—It was the LORD's Day.* The Day, on which CHRIST arose; and conquered Death, and triumphed over the Grave. The Day, on which the HOLY GHOST came down upon the Apostles; and made their Understandings clear as the Light, and their Tongues piercing as the Fire. The Day, on which all inferior Business is discontinued, and every earthly Care suspended; in order to give, both a Type, and a Foretaste, of *that everlasting Rest, which remaineth for the People of GOD.*

HE *was in the Spirit*. Not only wrapped in Contemplation; wrestling in Prayer; and his Soul ascending in Praise: which are spiritual Exercises, and suited to the Day: but under an extra-ordinary Influence of the divine Spirit. This illuminated his Mind: this enlivened his Imagination: and set before Him the most magnificent Scenes, that Heaven and Earth afford. Even while he was confined amidst the barren Sands, the naked Rocks, and solitary Wilds of *Patmos*. Whither He was banished, *for the Word of GOD, and for the Testimony of JESUS CHRIST*. Revel. i. 9.

IN these solitary Wilds, *He hears behind Him a great Voice*; as loud, and probably as melodious, as *a Trumpet*. Which may remind your Ladyship, of those beautiful and awakening Lines, in the *Messiah*—

Hark! a glad Voice, the lonely Desert cheers:
Prepare the Way. A GOD, a GOD appears!
A GOD! A GOD! The vocal Hills reply;
The Rocks proclaim th' approaching Deity.

It is indeed THE DEITY, who approaches. It is indeed HIS Voice, that is heard. It is the Voice, that spake at the Beginning, and the World was made: the Voice, that spake from Mount *Sinai*, and the Center shook: that will speak at the last, and Time shall be no more.

AND what says this wonderful Voice? The Subject is like the Speaker, *great and marvellous*. I am
ALPHA

ALPHA and OMEGA; the FIRST and the LAST. The TRUE, the SELF-EXISTENT, the ETERNAL GOD. Which is, and which was, and which is to come. In this high Capacity, under this august Character, our LORD JESUS CHRIST is the efficient Cause, and the ultimate End of all Things.

CONSIDER Him as MEDIATOR, He is the Source and the Center of all the divine Dispensations: from whom they all proceed, and in whom they all terminate.—But He is more peculiarly the Origin and Foundation, of all those Purposes of redeeming Love; which were formed by the blessed and only Potentate, *before the Mountains were brought forth, or ever the Earth and the World were made.* Those Purposes, which the LORD JEHOVAH formed, to save an innumerable Multitude of fallen sinful Men: bringing them, from a State of Ignorance, to the Knowledge of his adorable Perfections; and, from a State of Wickedness, to a delightful Communion with his MOST HOLY MAJESTY.—Which is the most distinguished Honour, and the most consummate Happiness, that an Arch-Angel can enjoy. Yet is intended (I most heartily congratulate You on the Occasion) for You, Madam—and intended also (how shall I admire? O! how shall I sufficiently admire, *the exceeding Riches of Grace?*) for

Weston,
Feb. 26, 1753.

Your Ladyship's most obedient,
and ever grateful Servant.
P. S.

P. S. I HOPE, your Ladyship will take the Case into Consideration, which is mentioned at the Beginning. However, I shall venture to trouble You once more, and transmit the Sequel of this little Sketch, before I receive your Decision.

LETTER LI.

MADAM,

PERMIT me, without any Ceremony, or the Formality of a Preface, to resume the Subject of my former Letter.

CONSIDER CHRIST as a Prophet, He is *the first and last*: the sole Inspirer of every Prophet, and the final Object of all Prophecy. *A Prophet like Moses*, says the sacred Oracle: in this Respect principally, that as Moses was superior to all other Prophets; so CHRIST is greatly, is incomparably superior to *Moses* himself.—Do Prophets speak of future Events, and of People yet unborn, with as much Clearness and Certainty, as if the People were present, as if the Events were past? They do. Yet not they, but the SPIRIT of CHRIST, which is *with* them, which is *in* them.—He is Truth itself, *In Him are hid all the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge. None teacheth like Him,*

CONSIDER

CONSIDER Him as THE HIGH-PRIEST of our Profession; both in Nature and Practice, He is *holy, harmless, and perfectly undefiled*. In Dignity of Office, He is *higher than the Heavens*. In the Continuance of his Ministration, He is *a Priest for ever after the Order of MELCHISEDEK*. His DEATH is the great, the all-atoning Sacrifice, which taketh away the Sin of the World. It is the ALTAR that sanctifies, the INCENSE that perfumes, every other Oblation. By this *We have Access, with Boldness, into the Holy of Holies*; and by this *We trust to have an abundant Entrance into the Kingdom of Glory*.

CONSIDER Him as KING, He is the FIRST and the LAST. *David's Royal Sceptre, and Solomon's Ivory Throne, are but Shadows of his Sovereignty*. —The Kingdom of Providence is his; The FATHER hath committed all Judgment unto the SON. —The Kingdom of GRACE is his; *He is HEAD over all Things to the Church*. —The Kingdom of GLORY is his; *He is gone into Heaven, Angels, Authorities, and Powers being made subject unto Him*. —His WORD is his Sceptre, and *He rules in the Hearts of his People*; there *He writes his Laws*, and there *He subdues their Enemies*, even those *Lusts which war against the Soul*.

HE is the SUM and SUBSTANCE of all the great Things, which are written by *Moses, the Prophets, and Apostles*. He is that ALMIGHTY WORD, whose *Fiat* is recorded in *Genesis*, and by Whom the
Worlds

Worlds were made. He is that SUN of RIGHTEOUSNESS, whose Rising is foretold by *Malachi*, and whose Beams have brought Life and Immortality to Light. He is that supreme JUDGE, whose Tribunal is erected in the Visions of *John* the Divine, and at whose Bar the Dead both small and great are to be convened.

IN the Duties of Religion, in the Graces of Christianity, in the Comforts and Victories of the Christian, HE is the FIRST and the LAST.—Would We exercise Ourselves in the Duty of Prayer? Our LORD has declared, *Whatsoever Ye shall ask the Father in my Name, He will give You*.—Would We offer the spiritual Sacrifice of Praise? The Apostle has set Us an Example; *I thank my GOD through JESUS CHRIST*.—Is Joy a desirable State? The same infallible Director says; *Rejoice in the LORD JESUS ALWAYS: and again I say, REJOICE in GOD your Saviour*. For, He makes You *always to triumph: through Him You overcome Sin, and Death, and Hell: Ye are more than Conquerors through Him that loved You*.

IN a Word, CHRIST is ALL.—As all the Fountains, the Rivers, and the Clouds, proceed from the Sea. So, all our Salvation, our Holiness, and our Happiness, are found in CHRIST: from the first Gleam of Hope, that dawns in the penitent Breast, even to the rapturous Song of Thanksgiving, which sounds from the glorified Believer's Tongue.

SINCE

SINCE then We have a Redeemer, who is ALPHA and OMEGA, *the BEGINNING and the ENDING ; which was, and which is, and which is to come ;* the ALMIGHTY : what can be a more reasonable Inference, or a more beneficial Improvement of the Doctrine, than his own encouraging Exhortation, *Fear not ?—Was He the last, but not the first, who would begin the good Work in Us, or set forward our eternal Felicity ? Was He the first only, and not the last, We might be apprehensive, lest He should desert the good Work, before it were accomplished. But as He is both the first and the last, He will not faint nor be discouraged, till He has fulfilled all the good Pleasure of his Will, and the Work of Faith with Power. He will sanctify his Servants wholly ; and preserve their whole Spirit, Soul, and Body blameless unto the Day of his own glorious Appearing.*

HAVING such a KING, what should We fear ? If HE be for Us, who can be against Us ? He has Bowels of Compassion to pity Us, and the ARM of OMNIPOTENCE to succour Us. Therefore let the Children of *Sion* be joyful in their KING. Let them say boldly with the heroic Apostle ; *I am persuaded, that neither Death, nor Life ; nor Angels, nor Principalities, nor Powers ; nor Things present, nor Things to come ; nor Height, nor Depth ; nor any other Creature, shall be able to separate Us from his Love, or pluck Us from his Hand.*

HAVING

HAVING such a PROPHET, let Us sit at his Feet, with pious *Mary*. Let Us exercise Ourselves in his Word, Day and Night, with holy *David*. And let Us, with the Disciples of old, wait for the Teachings of his DIVINE SPIRIT. He can teach, not our Ears only, but our Hearts. He can give Us *all Riches of the full Assurance of Understanding*. He can fill our Souls, and fill the World, with heavenly Wisdom, *as the Waters cover the Sea*.

HAVING such a PRIEST, what may We not hope? If the idolatrous *Micah* could say, *Now I know that the LORD will do me Good, seeing I have a Levite to my PRIEST*. Judg. xvii. 13. How much more may We every One profess; Now I am assured, the LORD JEHOVAH will do me Good, seeing *We have a great HIGH-PRIEST, that is passed into the Heavens, JESUS the Son of GOD*.—We need not wish for *thousands of Rams, or ten thousands of Rivers of Oyl*. His Death is a Propitiation of infinite Efficacy: sufficient to expiate all Guilt; sufficient to procure all Blessings.—We need not wish for *Horses of Fire, and Chariots of Fire*. His Intercession is our Defence against all the Assaults of Temptation, and our Preservative amidst all the Dangers of Apostacy.

IF, in all the preceding Instances, JESUS CHRIST is *first and the last*, should He not be so likewise—In our Esteem? Should We not account *all Things but Loss, for the Excellency of the Knowledge of CHRIST JESUS our LORD*?—In our Desires?

Desires? Should not this be the Language of our Hearts? *Whom have I in Heaven but THEE? and there is None upon Earth, that I desire in Comparison of THEE.*—In our Glorifying? Ought not this to be our unalterable Resolution? *GOD forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our LORD JESUS CHRIST?*—In our Aims? *Whether We eat or drink, or whatever We do, should We not do all to the Glory of GOD our SAVIOUR?*—In our Life and Death? That *whether We live, We may live unto the LORD; or whether We die, We may die unto the LORD: so that, living or dying, We may be the LORD's.*

Then, Madam, You will not think it strange, that CHRIST is the constant Topic, both of my Tongue and Pen. You will not censure it, as a pedantic Practice, that, in all the Letters, which I have the Honour of writing to your Ladyship, CHRIST is still the leading Theme, or the ultimate Point.—A very famous Wit, I know, characterizes a Pedant, as One who turns every Conversation to some favourite and peculiar Subject. If this be a true Definition, the wisest and best Men, that ever lived, were the greatest Pedants. The most excellent and only divine Book in the World, is a Series of Pedantry.—To imitate such Pedants, and adopt such Pedantry, I hope, will always be my Study and my Delight. And, zealous as I am for your Ladyship's Dignity, I dare venture to wish,
that

that in this Respect You may be *not only almost, but altogether* like,

Madam,

Weston,

Your most obliged,

March 24, 1753.

and very obedient humble Servant.

P. S. Forgive me, my honoured Lady, if I have done wrong or acted disrespectfully, in delaying my Letter. I have been oppressed with such insuperable Languors of Constitution, as have made me diffident of myself; displeased with my own Thoughts; averse to Application of every Kind. And, (would You think it?) I can hardly bear to revise the Lines, which are now written to your Ladyship. I hope, their Patroness will be more indulgent than their Author, or else wretched will be their Fate.

L E T T E R LIII.

MADAM,

GIVE me Leave to thank You, for your very obliging Inquiry after my Health. I can give no very agreeable Account of it. As You will easily conjecture, when I wish, that your Ladyship's may be the very Reverse of mine.—However, I desire to bless GOD, that I am not racked with Pain; that I am enabled, in any Sort, to *preach and teach*
JESUS

JESUS CHRIST; and that, ere long, this *Corruptible will put on Incorruption, and this Mortal will put on Immortality. Then shall be brought to pass, in its fullest Extent, the Saying that is written: They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their Strength. They shall mount up with Wings like the Eagle. They shall walk, and not be weary: they shall run, and not faint.*

The Scarcity of religious Acquaintance, I believe, is a general Complaint. For my Part, I can find very few among the wealthy or fashionable, who delight in edifying Conversation. Therefore, they are seldom troubled with my Company, and as seldom vouchsafe to visit me.—How glad should I have been, had Providence so ordered my Situation, to have waited on your Ladyship, and talked of the *Lord*, who was a *Servant* for Us—the *Judge*, who was *condemned* for Us—the *King*, who *died* for Us!—But though We cannot talk of Him, We may speak to Him, by Prayer; and He will speak to Us, by his Word. And *never Man spake like Him. He giveth goodly Words. The Law of Kindness is on his Lips. Honey and Milk are under his Tongue. He speaks, that We may have Joy; that our Joy may abide; that our Joy may be full. O! that his Word may dwell in Us richly!*

WHAT You say of some Persons, brings to my Mind that affecting and tender Expostulation of our blessed LORD; *Will Ye also go away?*—May the wise and noble Answer of the Disciples be the in-

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variable

variable Language of our Hearts! *LORD*, to whom shall We go? Thou hast the Words of eternal Life. Eternal Life is our only Happiness. If We fall short of this, *We are of all Creatures most miserable*. And in thee, blessed JESUS, in Thee alone this ineffimable Portion is to be found. Thy heavenly Doctrine has brought it to Light. Thy Death and Obedience have purchased it for poor Sinners. Thy Spirit makes meet for this blissful Inheritance. And thy Promise, thy inviolable Promise, has ascertained it to our Enjoyment.

I HAVE not seen my dear Friend *Whitefield*; but shall esteem it a Privilege and a Delight, to receive Him under my Roof.—I have just got a Sight of the Book You mention. The Author, I find, makes every Incident, related in Scripture, some Way or other significative of CHRIST. Nay, every Name, whether of Persons or of Places, is, according to his Interpretation, pregnant with some evangelical Doctrine. His Method is very ingenious; to the pious Mind, which loves the LORD JESUS CHRIST, it must be pleasing and instructive; but whether it be the real Meaning of the Holy Spirit, or whether it will approve itself to the Judgment of Those, who are of quick Understanding in the Fear of the LORD, I am at a Loss to determine. However, I rejoice to see so much Learning captivated to the Obedience of Faith: freely owning, that Man is nothing, human Attainments are

are nothing; but *Christ* and his Righteousness, *Christ* and his Grace, are ALL IN ALL.

—Your Ladyship will now give me a Dismissal. —It is Sunday Morning. I must prepare for my People's Edification. Though I do not often chuse a Text from the Canticles, yet I am much inclined to preach on that charming Passage; "*Who is this that cometh up out of the Wilderness, leaning upon her Beloved?*" While I, in much Weakness, discourse upon it; may You, Madam, contemplate it, experience it, enjoy it! And hold on, in this comfortable happy Course, till You pass, from the Wilderness of this World, into the heavenly *Canaan*, and the Paradise of GOD!—There, I hope, will be the present Conversation, and there the final Abode of

Weston, Your Ladyship's most obliged,
April 1, 1753. and most dutiful Servant.

L E T T E R LIV.

MADAM,

YOU will have a Beggar at your Door, or rather a Beggar in your Hand. And I must honestly own, He is so proud a Beggar, that if He could do without your Alms, or supply Himself else-

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where,

where, Your Ladyship had not been troubled with this Application. — After such a Confession, can You open your Hand, and gratify his Request?— You can: I am persuaded, You can. And may your Charity be so strong and exalted, as to triumph over many such, yea and greater Trials!—What would this troublesome and importunate Man have? Does He want Silver and Gold? Or, *would He be spoken for to the King, or to the Captain of the Host?* 2 Kings iv. 13. — No, Madam. Of the former, blessed be the divine Providence, He has *enough, and to spare*. As to the latter, He answers with the *Shunamite, I dwell among mine own People*; perfectly content with my Station, and without a single Wish for a higher. But if your Ladyship would be so good, as to procure for Him, and transmit to Him, a few Franks; You will very much oblige Him, and put it into his Power to oblige some of his distant Correspondents.

BEGGARS, I know, ought not to be tedious. I will therefore take care to avoid this offensive Circumstance. Only let me wish, that You, Madam, who are so ready to assist Others, may have *the GOD of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the Heaven, for your Help, and in his Excellency on the Sky*.—That You, who are so willing to relieve the Necessities of Others, may have for your own Portion *the unsearchable Riches of CHRIST*. May have all those inestimable Blessings and glorious Privileges, which were purchased for You, by the Blood of HIM, whom

whom Angels adore—by the Blood of HIM, who upholdeth all Things—by the Blood of HIM, who will judge the World.—Then, Madam, You will have a Portion, too great for Words to express; but not too great for Him, most sincerely and ardently to wish, who ventures to beg one more Favour, the Favour and Honour of subscribing Himself,

Weston, Your Ladyship's most obedient,
 April 7, 1753. and ever grateful humble Servant.

L E T T E R LV.

MADAM,

SHALL I be forward to make my Requests, but backward to make my Acknowledgements? Your Favour, so speedily granted, and in so obliging a Manner, would render my Silence inexcusable. Let me express my Gratitude, by wishing You the Accomplishment of that Promise; *It shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.* Isai. lxxv. 24.

I HOPE, this will find your Ladyship freed from that troublesome Disorder, the Head-Ach. The Disorder is troublesome, but it comes on a kind Errand. Its Ministry may be somewhat importunate,

nate, but its Message is gracious. It says to your Affections, "Arise, and depart, for Here is not your Rest. There is a Land, *where the Inhabitants shall no more say, I AM SICK.* A Land, in which is *the Fulness of Joys, and Pleasures for evermore.* There your true Happiness is; there let your Heart be also."

YESTERDAY, I doubt not, You was thinking of HIM, *who loved Us; and washed Us from our Sins, in his own Blood.*—Did You not follow Him to Gethsemane, and view Him in that memorable Garden? He is exposed to the chilling Damps of the Night: He is prostrate upon the cold Ground: yet, He sweats—sweats profusely,—sweats great Drops—great Drops of Blood, falling down upon the Earth,—Did You not ask your LORD, with Wonder and Sorrow; *Wherefore art Thou red in thine Apparel, and thy Garments like Him that treadeth in the Wine-Fat?* *Isai. lxiii. 3.* And was not this the gracious Answer? "I am prostrate upon the Ground; that Thou, Sinner, mayest be exalted to the Heaven of Heavens. My Garments are red, and my Body weeps Blood; that thou mayest walk in white Robes, and rejoice in the Favour of GOD for ever."

DID you not behold Him tied to the Post, without Friend to pity Him, or Eye to compassionate Him? While the merciless Executioners ply the Scourge; redouble their Strokes; smite Him again and again; and cut Gashes in his Flesh, like the Furrows,

Furrows, which the Plough tears in the Field.
Psal. cxxix. 3.

As though the Scourge had not fetched Blood enough from his Back and Sides, *they crown Him with Thorns*. What a Mockery was this! What a Torment! And how did his blessed Head ach!—They crush the Thorns into his Temples; they beat them down with the Cane; they drive them deep into his Flesh, and nail them in his very Scull. O! what a Shower of Blood must rain upon his Face and his Neck!

ALL this does not satisfy the Barbarity of the Jews; nor sufficiently express the Goodness of our LORD. He will give Us still greater Proofs of his Love; and yet stronger Assurances of a complete Atonement.—They *nail Him to the Cross*. They *pierce* his Hands and his Feet. They *hammer* the dreadful Iron, through his racked Sinews, and convulsed Nerves. On these dreadful Nails his Body hangs: not for a few Minutes only, which would occasion Pain inconceivable; but for several tedious, dismal Hours. During all which Time, the Weight of his Body wreathing with Torture must widen the Wounds; must encrease the Anguish; and keep the crimson Streams incessantly flowing.

ARE there not Wounds and Bruises more than enough already? His Skin is rent with Whips; his Head is mangled with Thorns; his Hands and Feet are cleft with Nails: *there is no whole Part in his*
M 4 *Body.*

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ARE there not Wounds and Bruises more than enough already? His Skin is rent with Whips: his Head is mangled with Thorns; his Hands and Feet are cleft with Nails: *there is no whole Part in his*
M 4 *Body.*

Body. After all these Sufferings, must He receive another Wound? Must his Heart, his very Heart be stabbed?—Yes, Madam, for your Sins and mine, his Heart is stabbed: his Heart is cut asunder: a Spear is plunged into his very Heart, and forthwith issues the little Remainder of Blood that was left in this immaculate and divine Victim.

WHAT Love was here!—What a Propitiation is this!—Great Reason had the Apostle to say; *He loved Us; and washed Us from our Sins, in his own Blood.*—May the Contemplation and Belief of this precious Truth, be the Delight of your Soul in Life; the Comfort of your Heart in Death; and the Cause of your Confidence and Triumph, at the great and terrible Day of the LORD!—To the Pleasure I take in forming such a Wish, let me add the Honour of professing myself,

Weston, Your Ladyship's most obliged,
April 21, 1753. and most obedient Servant.

L E T T E R LVI.

MADAM,

WH O ever sailed round the World, without meeting with rude Blasts, and opposing Winds? And None can pass to the Land of everlasting Rest, free from all Disturbance, exempt from

from every Molestation.—But happy will these Disturbances be, if they wean Us from the World, and drive Us to our GOD. Of whom it is said, *Thou shalt hide them privily by thine own Presence from the Provoking of all Men : thou shalt keep them secretly in thy Tabernacle from the Strife of Tongues.*

WHEN We enter into the World, methinks, We launch into a troubled Sea. When We retire into the Closet, and exercise Ourselves in GOD's Word, We find a quiet Haven.—I hope, this, and indeed every Occurrence, will endear the BIBLE to your Ladyship ; will attach, more and more inseparably, both your Affection and your Attention to the Scriptures. They are Sources of Peace, as well as Oracles of Truth.—Let me speak my own Sentiments, and address my honoured Friend, in the Language of that incomparable Book, I would recommend. *Bind it continually upon thine Heart, and tie it about thy Neck. When Thou walkest, it shall lead Thee ; when Thou sleepest, it shall keep Thee ; and when Thou awakest, it shall talk with Thee.*

THIS, I presume, will find You in your rural Recess. Permit me to congratulate You on the Occasion ; and to wish You much of the divine Presence, while You contemplate the divine Works. In the magnificent Lamp of Day, You will see a Shadow of that SUN of RIGHTEOUSNESS ; *who arises, on a lost World, with Healing under his Wings.*—In the boundless Extent of the Skies, You will behold somewhat like a little Pattern of that
 ever-

everlasting Mercy; which *pardoneth Iniquity, and passeth by the Transgression of the Remnant of his Heritage.*—The copious, the majestic, the never-ceasing Flow of the neighbouring River, will remind You of that in-exhaustible Fulness, which dwells in our adored REDEEMER: will prompt You to thirst after those *living Waters*, of which whosoever drinks, *shall thirst no more; but they shall be in Him a Well of Waters, springing up to eternal Life:* will encourage You to expect the Accomplishment of that precious Promise, *I the LORD do keep it: I will water it every Moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it Night and Day.—Water it every Moment!* How benign and gracious is that Expression! How perfectly well suited to our urgent and incessant Necessities! Had it been said, Every *Week*; every *Day*; every *Hour*; it had been too little for our Exigencies. But this is just such a Supply as We want. May it be your never-failing Refreshment in this Life! and an Antepast of your inconceivable Happiness in a better Life!—Your Command, with relation to the Affair, communicated in your last, shall be punctually obeyed.—I am now going to set out for Northampton. Where I am to preach the Visitation Sermon. I know not how I shall speak, so as to be heard, in that very large and lofty Church. May the LORD GOD omnipotent make *his Strength perfect, in my extreme Weakness!* My Text is, (what, I dare believe, is a favourite Portion of Scripture with your Ladyship) *GOD forbid,*

ferbid, that I should glory, save in the Cross of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. O! for the Eloquence of an Apollos, and the Fervour of a Boanerges, to treat worthily of such a Subject. I am quite ashamed of my poor, jejune, spiritless Composition. And I am no less ashamed of my Unbelief: that I dare not trust GOD for Utterance; but, before an Audience that is critical forsooth, must use my Notes. Ah! Madam, see my Foolishness and vouchsafe your Pity. And as You sometimes condescend to honour me with a Letter, sometime be pleased to remember in your Prayers

Weston, Your Ladyship's much obliged
May 10, 1753. and ever grateful humble Servant.

L E T T E R LVII.

MADAM,

HOW much am I obliged to You, not only for complying with my late Request, but for making the Enquiry in your own Person, and so speedily favouring me with an Answer! Indeed, my Lady, I am deeply sensible of your Condescension and Kindness. O! that your Reward may be from the LORD, and your Recompence from your GOD! That You may find his Ear ever open to
your

your Prayers ; and his Hand ever stretched out, to uphold, to protect, to multiply Blessings upon You !

I HAVE ordered my Bookseller to transmit seven of the Sermons to Dr. *Hales*, according to his Direction. One for each of his Royal Patrons ; and one, I hope, He will please to accept Himself. May the LORD JESUS CHRIST sanctify (for to Him nothing is impossible) such a slight Discourse, to their Edification and Comfort !

My Bookseller has Orders to lodge a Packet at Lady ———'s, directed to your Ladyship ; which will contain four. *Two* You will permit me to present to your Ladyship ; and to beg the Favour of You to send the other, *one* to Lady *Chesterfield*, the *other* to the Countess *Delits*. And may the Father of Mercies send his heavenly Blessing with all !

I HAVE been thinking—Should one of those Royal Personages, who perhaps may honour my Discourse with a Perusal, vouchsafe to call at my House, or make me a transient Visit ; I should be astonished at the Favour—Should One of them submit to Poverty, or go into voluntary Exile, to do me Good ; I should be lost in Wonder. It would create a painful Delight—But, should Any of them, open their Bosom to the Sword, or tinge the Axe with their Blood, in order to save me from Ruin ! My Heart can hardly bear the Thought. Surely, I should much rather bid Death welcome, than obtain Life at such a Price.—Yet, my honoured Madam, did not HE, who

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is *Prince of the Kings of the Earth*, leave his celestial Throne for me? Did HE not stoop to the lowest Humiliation, and had he where to lay his Head for me? Was He not willing, nay, desirous to die; to die, like the vilest Slave, and in the severest Torment, for me? These are his Words; *I have a Baptism to be baptised withal; and how am I straitened, till it be accomplished!* He longed (all-gracious, ever-blessed Being!) He longed for the Hour, when He should give Us this amazing Demonstration of his Love. When He should speak it, in dying Pangs; and write it, in his Heart's Blood.—Can I wish You, Madam, a greater Blessing; than that You may be enabled *to comprehend with all Saints, what is the Length and Breadth, and Height and Depth of this Love?*—And pray, don't dishonour this adorable and boundless Love, by entertaining hard or forbidding Apprehensions of the *altogether-lovely* JESUS. Doubt not, but He has laid down his Life, in divinely-tender Compassion to your precious Soul: That He has bore all your Sins, and fully expiated your Guilt: That He has the same Bowels of Mercy for You now, as when He hung in Agonies on the cursed Tree; will with-hold from You no Manner of Thing that is Good; and *will never leave You, nor forsake You*, till He brings You to his own blissful Presence, and heavenly Kingdom. I beg leave to profess myself,

Weston, Your Ladyship's much obliged,
 May 24, 1753. and truly grateful humble Servant.
 L E T.

LETTER LVIII.

MADAM,

I AM sorry to hear, that You have not been perfectly well. Might my Wishes prevail, You should have no more Complaints of this Kind.—But perhaps it may be expedient for Us, to be visited with some Affliction. It may tend to wean our Affections from a Vale of Tears; and raise and fix them there, where true Joys are to be found.—In those *Mansions*, which CHRIST is gone to prepare; in those alone, complete Happiness, and consummate Righteousness dwell. Every Languor that oppresses Us, every Pain that chastiseth Us, is a friendly Monitor. It tells Us, that We are *Strangers and Pilgrims* below. It bids Us look upon the *heavenly Habitations*, as our Home; and never think Ourselves *thoroughly* happy, till We are *absent from the Body, and present with the LORD*.—May the Disorders, which I daily feel, have this desirable Effect on my Heart! May your Ladyship receive the Admonition much seldomer, and improve it much better!

You give me Pleasure, by informing me, that my mean Present, and superficial Sermon, met with Acceptance.—Dr. *Hales* is very obliging. Surely, Candour, Condescension, and Benevolence make

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up his Soul. I cannot wish Him a greater Good, than an Advance in this excellent Temper, and an Encrease of every spiritual Blessing.—Lady *Chesterfield* does me an Honour; and I beg of Her and the Countess *Delits* to accept my grateful Acknowledgements. May they and your Ladyship enjoy the Privileges mentioned in the Discourse! Then, though the one be very mean, and very small; the other will be exceeding great, inestimably precious, and just such as I wish for my honourable Friends.

BUT why, my honoured Madam, why should You not enjoy the Rest You desire?—The ever-blessed and ever-compassionate JESUS, invites You to come to Him; and promises, that He will give You Rest. And He is faithful that promises. Heaven and Earth may pass away, but one Iota or Tittle of his Word shall not fail.—This is what We have prayed for, many Years, in the Devotions of our Church: “That We may pass our Time in Rest and Quietness:” in a holy Tranquillity of Mind, sweetened with inward Peace, and brightened with heavenly Hope. And let Us not doubt, but the gracious GOD does hear, and will hear our Prayers, through the great Atonement, and prevailing Intercession of his dear Son.—Our Church, teaching Us to pray for that Peace of Conscience, which the World cannot give; adds; “That our Hearts may be set to obey thy Commandments.” Very justly intimating, that spiritual Peace is a most effectual Promoter of Holiness; and one of the best

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Preservatives from the Allurements of Vanity, and the Temptations to Evil. I hope, therefore, that the all-bountiful GOD, who *hath Pleasure in the Prosperity of his Servants*, will give You all Joy and Peace in believing.—It is the Supplication of an Apostle, which I have adopted for your Ladyship. You will please to observe the *Expression*; how full it is, and how rich. *Peace*—and not *only* Peace, but *Joy*—and not *only some*, but *all Peace and Joy*. Let me beg of You not to forget the *Direction*, or the Way wherein these Mercies are to be obtained—IN BELIEVING. May the Father of Compassions, and the GOD of all Comfort, enable You truly to believe; and You will experience that Peace, which passeth all Understanding. Enable You truly to believe—That your Sins, Infirmities, and Follies, have all been punished in your divine Redeemer—That his perfect Obedience and everlasting Righteousness, render You acceptable and complete before GOD—That He intercedes for You at his Father's right Hand, that You may be Partaker of the HOLY GHOST the COMFORTER; may be kept from Evil, the Evil which is in your Heart, and which is in the World; that You may be made *faithful unto Death, and inherit a Crown of Life*.—This Faith is a Source, is the *only* Source, of substantial and lasting Consolation.

BUT what are the Obstacles, and who are the Enemies, of your Repose? Tell them, Madam, I send them a Challenge. Employ me in your Service.

vice. If they dare give me the Meeting, I question not, but I shall give a proper Account of them to your Ladyship.—Perhaps, You wonder, that so puny a Creature should pretend to act the Hero; and may be afraid to trust your Interests, in so feeble a Hand.—Fear not, my good Madam. My Hand is feeble, I confess. But I have a Sword of heavenly Temper; powerful and resiftless. Which shall put them all to Flight, or lay them dead at your Feet.

SHALL I beg the Favour of a few more Franks? and run more and more in Debt to your Generosity? till I become, more than I can well express, your Ladyship's

Weston, obliged, repeatedly obliged,
June 12, 1753. humble Servant.

L E T T E R LIX.

MADAM,

I BELIEVE, I hope at least, You have thought my Professions of Respect, Gratitude, and Duty, to be very sincere. But you never apprehended, till the Receipt of my last Letter, that I had Zeal and Courage enough, to fight a Duel for your Ladyship. But I dare stand to my Challenge; and undertake to encounter not *one* only, but *all* the Enemies of

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your

your Tranquillity. For HE, whose Word is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged Sword, hath said, *Great shall be the Peace of thy Children.*

BUT what must I say, for having the Honour of your Letter, and the Favour of your Franks, somewhat more than a Week, and not making my Acknowledgements all this while?—Indeed I know not what to say. I am ashamed of myself. And I will tell You the very Truth, that I may be ashamed of myself more and more.—I have often intended to write. Yet when I came to set Pen to Paper, I knew not what to indite. My Thoughts were all locked up. They sympathized with external Nature. As there was a Drought upon the Earth, so the Springs of Invention (if ever I had any) were drained.—And now I am very unfit to converse with your Ladyship. I am out of Humour and angry. Angry at myself, for giving You Reason to suspect my Sense of your Kindnesses: and angry with my Servant, whom I have sent abroad, with Orders to be at Home in due Time, and get my Horse ready for an Airing. And though I have given Him Leave to take his Pleasure twice this Week already, He thinks proper to indulge the third Time; and stays much longer than He need, much longer than He ought.

IT is unmanly, I own, and unchristian, to be discomposed at such Trifles. Yet I bless the restraining Grace of my GOD, that I am not abandoned to Excess of Passion; and hurried into furious
Words,

Words, or outrageous Deeds. What would not the deceitful Heart of Man commit, if the Goodness of our heavenly Father did not interpose, to check, to curb, and controul? And adored be his gracious Name! He has promised never to leave, nor to forsake (finally forsake) his People. *Though they fall, they shall not be cast away, because the LORD upholdeth them with his Hand.*

You see, Madam, how weak, how despicable, how depraved I am: and will learn from hence, *not to think of your poor Correspondent, more highly than You ought to think.*—May I see from hence, how unspeakably I need a better Righteousness than my own! Alas! how flimsy at the best, how tattered at the worst, is the Cloathing of my own Attainments, my own Performances! But *the Robe of Righteousness, and the Garment of Salvation, which CHRIST has prepared, is PERFECT, and ENTIRE, wanting nothing.* Believers are COMPLETE IN HIM. As their Iniquities were imputed to Him; so his Obedience is imputed to them. *The LORD made Him to be Sin for Us, who knew no Sin; that We might be made the Righteousness of GOD in Him.*

I HOPE, this everlasting and glorious Righteousness of our divine Redeemer will be precious, exceedingly precious to your Ladyship. May You have the clearest Apprehensions of it, and an established Interest in it! May this be your Support, this your Consolation, under all the Failings of the

present State : till the Shadows of Imperfection and Mortality flee away ; and the Day of Immortality and Glory dawns.—Permit me, Madam, though with much Confusion, yet with the deepest Esteem, to subscribe myself

Your Ladyship's most obliged,

Weston,

and most obedient

June 30, 1753.

humble Servant.

LETTER LX.

MADAM,

TO be continually writing the same Thing, I know, is to violate the Rules of Delicacy. But your Acts of Condescension and Kindness are so incessant, that I must either trespass upon Gratitude, or offend against Elegance. Of the two, I chuse rather to be thought inelegant than ungrateful. Therefore, though my last Letter brought your Ladyship my best Thanks, this begs Leave to make the same Acknowledgements ; for your welcome Present of a Parcel of Franks, and for your obliging Offer to supply me with more.—I believe, I shall have no Occasion, to trouble You very soon. I shall want none, I am pretty certain, for the Services which You seem to suspect. I have no Business going forward with the Printer. My last little

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Essay,

Essay, had remained in the Obscurity of Short-Hand; if the Father of the afflicted Youth, had not importuned me to send my Sermon on a begging Errand. I gave it Him, as a Kind of Lottery-Ticket; not without some Hopes, and many Prayers, that it might meet with Success, and come up a Prize. Nor have I Reason to repent, but Cause to bless the divine Providence. For, though He printed two thousand, He tells me, they are almost all sold. May this teach me, and may happier nobler Experience teach your Ladyship, the Truth of that Royal Maxim; *Commit thy Way unto the LORD, and He shall bring it to pass.*

I THOUGHT, I should amuse You (and how glad shall I be, if I have comforted You!) by drawing back the Curtain, and giving You a View of my Heart.—A View! No, Madam, it was only a Glance. Could You see all the Folly and Irregularity, all the Meanness and Absurdity, all the Inclinations to Sin, and every Motion of Evil; You would admire the divine Goodness, which bears with so vile and base a Wretch. You would see accomplished, in the most glaring Manner, that scriptural Description; *The Heart is deceitful above all Things, and desperately wicked.* You would be apt to say, with Eyes lifted up to Heaven; Blessed be GOD for JESUS CHRIST! That poor Sinners have his divine Blood to cleanse them, and his unspotted Righteousness to justify them!

I ASSURE You, Madam ; that, notwithstanding all my Prayers, all my Vigilance, all my Endeavours ; I have so much unsubdued Corruption remaining in my Soul, as would sink me in Despair, or hurry me into Distraction ; were it not for that GREAT, that AMIABLE, that DELIGHTFUL Name, The LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. —But hither I fly (O ! that I might do it every Moment !) On this I trust (O ! that I could do it with FULL ASSURANCE of Faith !) For thus I argue : Though my Depravity is great, GREATER far is my Saviour's Merit. What can equal the Merit of GOD's glorious, GOD's *inconceivably* glorious Son ? It is neither Rant nor Enthusiasm, it is the Voice of Sobriety and Reason to say ; There never was, never can be any Thing, so immensely precious, as the Obedience and Death of HIM, who was once fastened with Nails to the Cross, but now sits at the right Hand of the Majesty in the Heavens. —Good Madam, let Us never forget this our Resting-Place. Even our Infirmities may be serviceable, if they teach Us to renounce Ourselves, and quicken our Application to CHRIST. *Noah's* Dove would fain have found somewhat to settle on ; some Branch of a Tree, or some Top of a Mountain. But finding nothing, after all her wearisome Excursion, she was constrained to return, and take up her Abode in the Ark. This seems to be an Emblem of the Soul, that seeks for Comfort and Salvation. We try ; we try again and again ; We
try

try ten thousand Times, to get something of our own; on which to fix our Hope, from which to derive our Consolation. But when, after repeated Experiments, We perceive, That *all* We have, *all* We do, is miserably deficient, is shamefully depraved: then, if the HOLY SPIRIT testify of CHRIST in our Hearts, We are made willing, We are made desirous, to come to the ALL-SUFFICIENT REDEEMER. Then We come to Him, as the Prodigal to his Father, not for something only, but for our ALL; with no other Recommendation, if it may be so termed, but our Misery and Indigence.

THEN, We look unto CHRIST, as the Needle points to the North. Then, We cleave unto CHRIST, *as the Girdle of a Man cleaveth unto his Loyns*. Then, We count ALL Things but Dross, *that We may win CHRIST, and be found in Him*. —O! how dear and desirable, are the *unsearchable Riches* of a Saviour, to such wretched Insolvents; such absolute Bankrupts!—And dare I call my right honourable, and highly honoured Correspondent, a Bankrupt?—I dare do this, and more.—I beseech the GOD and Father of our LORD JESUS CHRIST to convince Her thoroughly, that such is her State in spiritual Things. Because, this Conviction is the Way, not to Treasure only, but to a Kingdom. *Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven*. And how earnestly do I long, to have my noble Benefactress, possess a

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Treasure,

Treasure, that will never fail; a Kingdom, that will never be removed; and a Blessedness, that is inconceivable and everlasting!

I AM pleased to hear your Account of Lord ———, and his distinguished Accomplishments. I hope, the many Prayers of his godly Mother will be heard in his Behalf. That He may be like *Joseph, Obadiah, and Daniel*. Who, to all the fine Qualities, which form the Gentleman, the Politician, the Hero, added *the Faith of GOD's Elect*. This, I am persuaded, was far from obscuring the illustrious Figure, which they made while on Earth: and, I am very sure, it is no Blemish in their Character, now they are numbered with Saints in Glory everlasting.

If You, Madam, make an Apology for the Length of your Letter, what must I say?—I know, what the polite World would say, were they to see this tedious and indigested Epistle; That I had committed a most unhappy Mistake, and sent You my Sermon-Notes instead of a Letter.—But if You should be so candid, as to measure the Sincerity of my Respect, by the Length of my Letter; and read, in the Number of my Lines, the Ardour of my Wishes for your Happiness; this will be a singular Satisfaction to,

Madam,

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
and most obedient Servant.

Weston,
July 15, 1753.

L E T-

L E T T E R LXI.

MADAM,

SOME Time ago, I sent You a very long Letter; and now I take Leave, to trouble You with another.—If You ask my Reason for doing so: it is, I assure your Ladyship, principally with this View; That You may not think, I expect Letter for Letter.—No, Madam: I have a deeper Sense of the Benefits, which I have received from your Friendship, than to stand upon any such Terms; and a juster Esteem of the Honour, which I enjoy in your Correspondence, than to indulge any such Arrogance.—When You please to write, I am delighted. When You think proper to be silent, I am content. In both Cases, and at all Times, I think, I may venture to say, without Vanity or without Falshood, I am grateful. Heartily wishing, and often praying; *That our LORD JESUS CHRIST himself, and GOD even our Father, may give You everlasting Consolation, and good Hope through Grace! May comfort your Heart, and establish You in every good Word and Work!*

WILL your Ladyship permit me, to fill up the Remainder of my Paper with the Thoughts, which have been the Subject of our Discourse at the Tea-Table, and which are still warm on my own Mind?—The Weather being wet and tempestuous, brought
to

to our Remembrance that chearing and comfortable Passage, where it is said of CHRIST JESUS; *He shall be for a Place of Refuge, and for a Covert from Storm and from Rain.*

How, or in what Respects, shall CHRIST answer these desirable Purposes?—Because, He is our Surety. He has put Himself in our Stead. He has undertaken to answer all Accusations, that may be brought against Us; and to satisfy all Demands, that may be made upon Us.

HAS the Law of GOD any Charge against Us?—It has. The Law saith, *Cursed is He that continueth not in all Things, that are written in the Book of the Law to do them.* And instead of continuing in ALL, We have continued in NONE. We have not *perfectly* kept any, but have repeatedly broke all the Commandments. Broke them, if not in the outward Act, yet in our Hearts—If not in the Sight of our Fellow-Creatures, yet before the all-seeing GOD—If not in the literal, yet in the spiritual Sense of the Precepts. Therefore, the Law pronounces Us accursed: and the Law cannot be broken. Heaven and Earth may pass away, sooner than one Iota or Tittle of its Commands shall be unfulfilled, or of its Threatnings unexecuted. To rescue Us from this dreadful Condition, the blessed JESUS said; “Upon me be their Curse. I am
“content to be treated as an accursed Creature.
“Let all that Ignominy and Wrath, which are due
“to

“ to the vilest Transgressors—let it all fall upon
“ me.”

HAD the *Justice* of GOD any Controversy with Us?—It had. Justice solemnly declared, *The Soul that sinneth, shall die.* All We have sinned, and dealt wickedly. Death therefore is our due: Death temporal, spiritual, and eternal. — But our adored REDEEMER put Himself at our Head; became responsible for all our Provocations; and said, as it is most sweetly recorded in the Book of Job, *Deliver them from going down into the Pit: I have found a Ransom.* “ Here am I; prepared and determined
“ to expiate their Iniquities: though it cost me
“ Tears and Groans, Agonies and Blood.”—Accordingly, the Sword of inflexible Justice awoke; sheathed itself in his sacred Heart; and took full Vengeance on the Royal and Immaculate LORD, that it might spare his mean and sinful Servants.

THE *Authority* of GOD had a Demand upon Us; That We should keep the divine Law, or else never expect a Title to eternal Life. *This do, and Thou shalt live;* is a Decree, that will never be repealed.—It was impossible for our *fallen* Nature, to perform the heavenly Commandment, in all the Extent of its Requirements. Therefore, our ever-gracious Master became our Surety. HE, who gave the Law, was made under the Law. HE, who is Ruler over all, subjected Himself to our Obligations: in our Place, and in our Stead, He fulfilled all, that the Law commanded. On purpose,

pose, that He might answer that amiable Character, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. On Purpose, saith the inspired Writer, That by *his* Obedience *We* might be made righteous. Rom. v. 19.

IN these Respects, the LORD JESUS is a Refuge and Shelter. A *Refuge*, ever open and free of Access to all Sinners: a *Shelter*, inviolably secure and never to be penetrated by any Danger.—*Lot* was safe, when He fled to *Zoar*. *Noah* was safe, when He was shut up in the Ark. The Prophet was safe, when Chariots of Fire and Horses of Fire were all around Him. And are not they equally safe, who fly to this divinely excellent MEDIATOR? Who are interested in his atoning Death, his justifying Righteousness, his prevailing Intercession? They may boldly say; they may rejoice and sing; *We have a strong City*, in our great Redeemer's Grace and Love. *Salvation*, Salvation itself, *hath GOD appointed for our Walls and Bulwarks*.

WHILE Others, therefore, are hasting to gay Amusements: while Others are pushing their Way to Preferments, or aspiring after worldly Honours: may You, Madam, be pursuing the heavenly Plan, and *flying for Refuge to the Hope set before You*.—Did I know a more desirable Blessing, or a more distinguished Happiness, *this* would not be the invariable Wish of,

Weston,

Your Ladyship's

Aug. 4, 1753.

most obliged humble Servant

L E T.

L E T T E R LXII.

MADAM,

I FULLY intended to seize the very first Opportunity of acknowledging the Honour of your last: but have been obliged, by successive Interruptions, to postpone this Satisfaction, till the present Moment.—I beg of your Ladyship never to mention the Word *forgive*, as it stands connected in your Letter. Expect nothing from me, but the Respect, which I owe to your Dignity, and the Gratitude, which I owe for your Favours.

MR. ——— I seldom see. We rarely meet, but our Sentiments clash, and some sparring Blows intervene. This does not indeed alienate our Affections, or destroy our Friendship; but it renders our Interviews less pleasing, and less improving.—He is inseparably attached to his mystic Writers, and not a little zealous to propagate their Peculiarities. He can hardly forbear obtruding them, on every Occasion, and in every Company. Which, to my certain Knowledge, has prejudiced Some, disgusted Others, and startled More.—Whereas, when He does not soar in those super-celestial Heights, but condescends to talk on a Level with the Apprehensions of common Christians; none is more acceptable, none more useful.

SEE, Madam, what Need We have, to seek for Wisdom from above! That the blessed GOD may
guide

guide Us with his Counsel, and enable Us *to behave Ourselves wisely in all our Ways*. A Point of such great Importance, that it is mentioned, and by the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD, no less than four Times in one Chapter, concerning *David*. 1 Sam. xviii. 5, 14, 15, 30. Does not your Ladyship often remember, and as often plead in humble Prayer, such Promises as those, *Psal.* xxxii. 8. *Isai.* lviii. 11.

I AM glad to hear, that Mr. ——— is so full of Joy. May his Joy be lasting, as well as flowing! Though I sincerely wish it, yet I hardly expect it. For I think, his Notions are calculated, to bring the Soul into Bondage; and oppress it with Sadness; rather than to create that Peace of GOD, which passeth all Understanding, or shed abroad that Joy in the Heart, which *no Man taketh from Us*.

I HAVE no Thought of seeing *London*. Though to enjoy your Ladyship's Company, would be a very great Inducement. My frequent Infirmities are a Chain, which confines me to the Spot, where I am settled. When You cast your Eye upon an aged Tree, say, "That is a Picture of *Hervey*." Where the One, and where the Other is fixed, there they both must continue. Only with this Difference, that the latter hopes, ere long, to be transplanted into the Courts of the living GOD. Then, He may be seen to *revive as the Corn, and grow as the Vine*. Then, *his Leaf shall not fade; and look, whatsoever He doeth, it shall prosper*. — There, I trust to meet your Ladyship. There to see

see You, walking among the Angels, of Light; or sitting on a Throne of Glory; or prostrate at those Feet, which were pierced with Irons, and nailed to the cursed Tree, for your Salvation. This perhaps, when We see clearly the Lengths and Breadths, the Heights and Depths of our adored Redeemer's Love, will be esteemed the most desirable Posture, and the most delightful Employ.

TILL I am admitted to this Honour, I shall always be ambitious to profess myself,

Weston, Your Ladyship's most obedient
Sept. 3, 1753. and very humble Servant.

L E T T E R LXIII.

MADAM,

I HAVE neither read nor written a single Line, since I had the Pleasure of perusing your Letter. Entertainment and Business must both stand aside, while I pay my grateful Acknowledgements to your Ladyship.—You are pleased to ask, “If I am “angry?” And You will give me Leave to answer without Ceremony; “That I am angry: very angry.”—Can Your bear such Language, such a Reply, from a Person so highly obliged to your Generosity?—Yes, Madam; You will not only bear it,

it, but approve it, when I farther declare, That all my Anger falls upon *myself*.

My Silence, I must own, seems sullen and disrespectful. And for this I am angry, at this I am grieved, that I should so much as *seem* wanting in my Duty to a valuable and honoured Friend. But my Conduct, upon Examination may perhaps put on a different Aspect, and appear decent and becoming. I have been very ill: indeed, Madam, I have; notwithstanding what the Wine-Merchant says: whose Spirits, I suppose, are like the Commodity He deals in, mantling and florid; and who will not allow me to be indisposed, unless I keep my Chamber, or send for the Doctor. But my Constitution has been drooping, and my Spirits upon the Ebb. I have been ashamed of myself, and dissatisfied with my own Thoughts. And should I, in such a disagreeable Habit, obtrude myself or my Sentiments on your Ladyship's Notice?—The whole World, I dare say, would pronounce my Behaviour right. The whole World would be of Opinion, That the lucid Intervals of Life should be appropriated to your Correspondence. That only my shining Moments, only the Gleams of Sprightliness and Joy (if any such I have) should be devoted to your Service. These, however few, or however dim, they may be at present; I hope, they will ere long be brighter and more abundant. There is a Time, and there is a World, when *the Light of the Sun will be as the Light of seven Days*; when our Sun will

will no more go down, but shine with un-intermitted and everlasting Lustre.—This *Hope*, says the sacred Writer, *We have as an Anchor of the Soul, sure and stedfast*. And this Anchor is fixed on the ineffable Merit, Righteousness, and Intercession of our divine Redeemer. Can I wish You a better Blessing, than that You may *abound in this Hope, through the Power of the Holy Ghost?*—'Tis impossible to conceive a more real Happiness.—May You therefore, Madam, wait all the Days of your appointed Time, confiding in JESUS your Saviour, and *rejoicing in Hope of the Glory of GOD!*—It is the Wish, and I should be without Excuse, if it was not also the Prayer of,

Madam,

Weston,
Nov. 17, 1753.

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
most obedient Servant.

L E T T E R LXIV.

MADAM,

I CANNOT pass this joyful solemnity, without congratulating You on the happy Occasion. Give me Leave to address your Ladyship with the Compliments of the Season; and to assure You, that they are as sincere from me, as they are customary from all.

O

GOD

GOD MADE FLESH, is the greatest Honour to our Nature, and the greatest Blessing to our Persons, that can possibly be conceived. When therefore We commemorate this glorious and delightful Transaction, there justly may be amongst Us; as there was at the *Feast of Tabernacles*, VERY GREAT Gladness.

Now I mention the Feast of Tabernacles, might not the Celebration of that Festival be a Type of our LORD's Incarnation? The Ceremony was very remarkable, and equally pleasing: for which Reason, You will permit me to transcribe the Account. *Ye shall take the Boughs of goodly Trees, Branches of Palm-Trees, and the Boughs of thick Trees, and Willows of the Brook, and ye shall dwell in Booths seven Days.*

THE immediate Design of this Ordinance was, to keep up, among the Israelites, the Remembrance of that wonderful Period; when the whole Nation of their Ancestors, for the Space of forty Years, dwelt neither in Cities, nor Villages, nor Houses, but in Tents and in the Wilderness. For thus adds the sacred Ritual; *That your Generations may know, that I made the Children of Israel to dwell in Booths, when I brought them out of the Land of Egypt.*

THE remote, and the nobler Design might be, to foreshew that far more amazing, and infinitely more benign Event, when the Son of the most High GOD condescended to become Man: to
take

take up his Abode in a Tenement of Clay, and a Vale of Tears.—This seems probable, from the general Tenour of the Jewish Institutions; which was, to be a shadowy Representation of *good Things to come*.—It is still more probable, from the Expression made Use of by the inspired Writer; *The WORD was made FLESH, and dwelt*, or as the Original imports, *pitched his Tent, tabernacled among Us*.—Here, Madam, We have a scriptural Clue, to lead Us into the spiritual Sense: and, following such a Guide in our Allegories, We are sure not to allegorize at random.

MAY We adore the Goodness of this stupendous Vouchsafement, and rejoice in the Benefits resulting from it.—Hence We learn, more effectually than from all the Eloquence of Words, or from the greatest Multiplicity of other Gifts, What Manner of Love the eternal GOD bears even to his fallen Creatures.—Since the LORD of all was Partaker of our Flesh and Blood, We may cheerfully expect to be made Partakers of the divine Nature.—And since the KING IMMORTAL disdained not to inhabit our inferior World, We may humbly hope not to be denied Admittance into the EVERLASTING KINGDOM. Not to be denied Admittance? Rather, to have AN ABUNDANT ENTRANCE. *For We know*, says the Apostle, *We have an assured Trust, that when our earthly House of this Tabernacle is dissolved, We have a Building of GOD, an House not made with Hands, eternal in the Heavens.*

LET me wish You, Madam, to abound in this blessed Hope, through the Power of the HOLY GHOST. That You may live in the delightful Views of entering, in due Time, into those blissful Mansions; and of enjoying, for ever, their magnificent and glorious LORD. This will make it Christmas, or a Season of Joy and Triumph, all the Year round.—To this Wish permit me to add, what it is as much my Ambition, as my Duty to profess, that

I am

Weston,
Dec. 24, 1753.

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
most obedient, humble Servant.

P. S. SHALL I subjoin an Extract from a Book lately published, by an Author remarkable and eminent in the learned World? It may look like Vanity; and, I fear, is not wholly free from it. But, I think, my principal Motive is your Ladyship's Satisfaction. Because, it relates to a little Piece, in which You, Madam, are concerned; which indeed owes its Being to your Injunctions. Dr. *Shuckford*, to whom I am entirely unknown, and whom I know only by his celebrated Treatise, entitled *The Connection*, &c. is pleased to write thus, in his last Work; "How dogmatically He can
" abuse the Scriptures (speaking of Lord B.) not
" really knowing them, must be evident to every
" One, that will read Mr. H——'s most excellent
" Remarks on Lord B——'s Letters; a
" Treatise

“ Treatise worthy Every One’s attentive Consideration.”—I bless GOD, for giving it Acceptance, with so able a Judge ; and I humbly beg, that it may be for the Honour, not of the Writer, who will soon be no more ; but of that sacred Word, which abideth for ever.

L E T T E R LXV.

MADAM,

TO favour me with your Advice, and without delaying a single Post, is doubly kind and obliging. I really think, You have happily solved my Difficulty, and properly adjusted Matters between the *Bishop* and the *Doctor*. To give or drop such a Hint, as your Ladyship proposes, in my Letter to the *Bishop*, is all that I dare venture to do. And in doing this, I shall pay a due Regard to the Motion of the Worthy *Doctor*, yet not act contrary to Decency and Self-diffidence.—Nevertheless, I cannot persuade myself, that the PRINCE will ever relish, or that the Persons about him would be willing to have Him imbibe, such Notions as mine. My Notions would tell Him, that, amidst all his Royal Grandeur, He is a poor undone Sinner ; that, amidst all his Royal Power, He is *unable to think a good Thought*, or do any Thing to effect his Recovery.

That, for Recovery and Salvation He must be obliged, wholly obliged, obliged as much as the Meanest of his Subjects, to the PRINCE of PEACE; to the BLOOD of his CROSS, and the GRACE of his SPIRIT. And do You imagine, Madam, that such Doctrines will go down at Court? Will Humility be welcome in the Headquarters of Vanity?—To GOD indeed nothing is impossible. The Hearts of Kings are in the Hand of the LORD. I am glad, your Ladyship approves my Alterations. Having received your Approbation, they are gone to the Press.—I should have acknowledged your Goodness, in giving me your valuable Advice, and sending me a fresh Supply of Franks. By the last Post I should have made my Acknowledgements; but I was full of Business in preparing a scriptural Index for my Book. And even now it is not finished; still my Hands are engaged; and I have scarce a Moment to spare. Which I believe, which I am persuaded, You will admit as an Excuse for the Shortness of my Letter; and if You should be pleased to think, the Gratitude of my Heart is the very Reverse of the Scantiness of my Epistle, You will think the Truth of,

Madam,

Weston,
Jan. 2, 1754.

Your most obliged
humble Servant.

LET-

L E T T E R LXVI.

MADAM,

PERMIT me to acknowledge, with Pleasure and Gratitude, the Receipt of your last obliging Letter.—This, I hope, will find your Ladyship recovered, from the Fatigue of attending, and from the Affliction of losing, a valuable Friend.—Friends, though a delightful, are a precarious Possession. Here, they are only lent Us for a few Moments: in Heaven, they will be our own for ever. Let Us then, according to our respective Abilities, facilitate and expedite each Others Progress to that Land of Life, of Love, and inviolable Security.

I AM obliged to Lord N——, for having any tolerable Opinion of a certain Person and his Writings.—With regard to the Affair of the Franks, I was unspeakably more concerned for your Ladyship, than for myself. It grieved me to think, that You should condescend, in my Favour, to ask, and, on my Account, have the Mortification of a Denial. I dare say, You don't often do the former; and I assure myself, You have not often met with the latter.—I rejoice, however, that You are enabled to disregard such ruffling Accidents, and are superior to such low Vexations. They would almost break a proud Person's Heart, but will not break an humble Person's Rest.—May your Ladyship be more

and more conformed to the Example of that divine Being, who was illustrious and admirable for every Excellency, but for nothing more than his Humility, Meekness, and Lowliness of Mind ! This may not be the *modish*, but it is the *real* Delicacy and Dignity. It is the Fashion, that prevails in the Court of Heaven, and will be in Vogue through the Ages of Eternity.

WHAT I took Leave to lay before your Ladyship, with regard to a late Pamphlet, was for the Sake of your own Honour ; and, if Need be, for the Vindication of your Judgment. I am determined to mention it to no One besides. For, what have I to do with Applause ? Or, if I should covet any Thing of this Nature, What is the *true* Applause ? — The Seal of GOD ; the Testimony of the Reader's Conscience ; his Saying, as He reads, “ This is instructive ; this is animating ; this is comfortable. This cheers my Heart, or quickens my Graces : this enlightens my Understanding, and *does my Soul Good like a Medicine.* ” — This is truly valuable Praise. After this alone I would aspire. And this comes, not from the Voice of Fame, but from the Operations of the BLESSED SPIRIT.

I BELIEVE, I am not acquainted with the Author, who was so happy as to please your Ladyship's Taste, and to establish your Faith. *Taylor upon Faith working by Love*, is what I never read ; O ! that I may know its Truth by happy Experience !

The

The Love of CHRIST is the true Source of Repentance, the true Spur of Obedience, and the true Persuasive to Mortification. It will make even the stern Countenance of that dreaded Duty wear a Smile. Under its Influence, the difficult Task of Self-Denial becomes, not practicable only, but easy and eligible. We shall, without Reluctance, deny Ourselves for HIS Sake, who has obtained Pardon of Sin and eternal Redemption for Us. We shall gladly renounce any alluring Vanity for HIS Honour, who has made Us *Children of GOD, and Heirs of Glory*. We shall be *ready to distribute and willing to communicate*, for the Relief of the afflicted Servants; when We believe, that their exalted LORD emptied even his Veins, and laid down his very Life, for our Salvation.—May that glorious GOD who pours the Light of Day through the Universe, *shed abroad this Love of CHRIST* in your Ladyship's Heart!

AND O! what abundant Reason have We to love that all-gracious Redeemer!—You love the generous Lady, who left You all that She possessed. This eminent Act of Kindness endears her Memory, and encreases your Affection. How dear then! how transcendently dear and precious, should the blessed JESUS be to your Ladyship! Since He *lived* for You; *died* for You; and not only *remembered* You in his Will, but *bequeathed* to You all his *unsearchable Riches*.—I have an authentic Copy of his Will; and, when I have the Honour of writing

writing to You again, I propose to transcribe two or three of the noble Clauses, which specify some of those inestimable Legacies, given to You, Madam, and to

Weston, Your Ladyship's most obliged,
Jan. 26, 1754. and most obedient humble Servant.

LETTER LXVII.

MADAM,

I SCARCELY know how to express my Thankfulness for the double Favour, of excusing my long Silence, and sealing my Pardon by a welcome Present. May the great eternal GOD abundantly bless You with his Love, sealing *You unto the Day of Redemption!*

My Brother brought the Franks. Their Number gave me a pleasing Idea of your Ladyship's Generosity. Other People will hardly come up to our Requests. It is your Delight to exceed our Expectations. And as it is your Delight, it is also your Honour and your Happiness. This is to imitate the supreme Benefactor, who *prevents* poor Sinners *with the Blessings of his Goodness*. Who, when We deserved no Mercy, gave Us the most unspeakably precious Gift. Gave his Son, his divine and adorable Son, *to be made Sin for Us, that We might*
be

be made THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD in HIM.

WE have had, after a long Succession of very dry Weather, the most seasonable and refreshing Rains. *The GOD of Nature* has watered the Earth, and made it fruitful. The Meadows are covered with Herbage, and the Fields stand thick with Corn. *The little Hills* (according to the Psalmist's beautiful Description) *clap their Hands, and the Vallies laugh and sing.* And will *the GOD of Grace* withhold his blessed Spirit? Will He fructify the Clods of the Ground, and leave the Souls, the immortal Souls of his People, barren and desolate? No; *He hath spoken in his Holiness,* and solemnly promised; *I will pour Waters upon Him that is thirsty, and Rivers upon the dry Ground; I will pour my Spirit.* Not drop or distill, but *pour*—and not Waters only, but *Rivers*—Communications of my Grace, *copious* as the liquid Treasures, and incessant as the everlasting Flow, of the majestic Stream. May this blessed Promise be made good to You, Madam! Fly for Refuge to JESUS CHRIST, and it is your's. Lean upon your beloved Redeemer, and verily it shall be fulfilled.

I HAVE enclosed a little Collection of scriptural Promises, relating to the most important Interests of the Christian, and the most pressing Exigencies of his probationary State. I have caused two thousand of them to be printed: in order to dispose of them among my Friends and the Poor. If pasted,

the one at the Beginning, the other at the End of their Bibles, they may be a little Casket of spiritual Consolation.—Be so good as to accept the Trifle, and I will think of the Serpent that presented a Rose to Jupiter; the lowest Reptile to the Monarch of Heaven. Should your Ladyship chuse to do the Paper an Honour, by giving it to any Persons, You will please to command a Supply. The Contents of it, I hope, will comfort, enlighten, and edify their Hearts.

MAY I promise Myself the Benefit of your Opinion, concerning the Publication of *three* Volumes. As You know the Taste and Temper of the polite World, I should be much obliged for your Advice. And I beg You will not flatter my Vanity; but if You think, that *three* Volumes on a *religious* Subject will be *insupportable*, be so kind as to tell me plainly. I would fain write, what may be acceptable, in order to write what may be useful; and, for my own Part, I really am afraid, that so *large* a Work will be less likely to subserve such a Design. Your Ladyship's Sentiments on the Subject, would have much Weight with, and would be very welcome to,

Madam,

Your most obedient

and grateful humble Servant.

Weston,

June 1, 1754.

L E T-

L E T T E R LXVIII.

MADAM,

I HAVE now before me a great Favourite; who is condemned to die, and must suffer Execution, the Moment I have finished my Letter to your Ladyship.—Can You guess, Who or What I mean? It is your own obliging Letter; which, with all your Favours of this Kind, hath been sentenced to the Flames by your own Orders; and must, as all its Predecessors have done, perish, unless You please to revoke the Doom.

I WAS guilty of a great Mistake, in the last Letter which I had the Honour of writing to your Ladyship. I compared the enclosed Paper to the Present of a Rose. Whereas, it was really a *Bank-Note*: richer than the Note, which, about a Year and half ago, a certain Lady of Quality was pleased to transmit to a Country Clergyman, for the Benefit of his poor Neighbours.

'TIS a Note upon the Bank of Heaven: a Note under GOD's own Hand: a Note for Treasures of inestimable Worth and everlasting Duration.—Yet I do not pretend, Madam, to lay You under any Obligation, or to compensate for your own Generosity. Because, I am not the Bestower, but only the Bearer of the Gift.—May that ALL-SUFFICIENT GOD, from whom it comes, enable You
to

to use it! Enable You, by Faith and Prayer, to *draw for whatever You want—for Grace to help in every Time of Need—for ALL “the unsearchable “Riches of CHRIST.”*

I WISH, with your Ladyship, that my good Friend Mr. H—— had not been so lavish in his Praises of Mr. L——. But I verily believe, He obeyed the Dictates of his Conscience, in all that He wrote. —I must say likewise, that I am not much delighted, and not at all edified, by his partly philosophic, partly casuistic Preface. But He may intend it for the Benefit of other Readers. To those, I heartily wish, it may be blessed; and all his Labours, and all his Writings, to the Honour of our common LORD.—There may be a gracious Providence, in suffering the Sentiments of his Servants to be somewhat diversified. By this Means, every Case may be suited, and every Person properly addressed. The *Word of GRACE*, which publisheth Life and Peace by JESUS CHRIST, may be, like the Manna in the Wilderness, pleasing to every Palate, and profitable to every *Israelite*.

I AM much encouraged, and perhaps too much pleased, with the Reply of the young Lady. She has paid me such a Compliment, as I know not how to acknowledge; unless I may be permitted to wish—What? That She may shine at a Court, or be the Toast of the Age? No: but that She may perceive, What a Sinner, What a Rebel, What an undone Creature, lies hid under that blooming
Coun-

Countenance, and engaging Person. This will be the Way of bringing Her to prize that adorably tender and compassionate Saviour, who died to deliver Her *from the Wrath to come*.—If She should think this a very coarse Return for her polite Speech, I would beg of Her to cast a Look upon the Gold in her Purse, or the Diamond on her Ring. These, She will observe, were first lodged *very low*, before they arose to their present high Estimation.

I HAVE still another Scruple, which respects not the gay and splendid World, but the mean and penurious. I would gladly have my Books in those Hands, which hold the Plough, and ply the Distaff. —Because, these Persons are as nearly related to the all-creating GOD, and as highly beloved by the ever-blessed JESUS, as those who wear a Crown, or wield a Sceptre. But these will hardly be able to purchase *three* Volumes.

I THANK your Ladyship for your kind Offer, in Reference to the Princess. But my Work is so far from being ready to come abroad, that it is not yet in the Press. The necessary Preliminaries, one of which is the Number of the Volumes, are not settled. Though, as to this particular, I begin to be pretty well satisfied.

MY Brother returned to London, long before I received your Commands, concerning the little printed Papers. Otherwise, He would have been glad of the Pleasure of conveying them to your Ladyship. In this Frank, and in another, You will

will find half a Dozen enclosed; some in a larger and some in a smaller Character. I am not without Hopes, that the divine Blessing may accompany them. GOD, though infinitely exalted, does *not despise the Day of small Things*. And whatever He blesses, whether it be great or small, is blessed indeed. May this Blessing of the MOST HIGH ever rest upon your Ladyship; and, through the Atonement and Intercession of our GREAT HIGH-PRIEST, never depart from,

Madam,

Weston,

June 16, 1754.

Your most obliged

and most obedient Servant.

L E T T E R LXIX.

MADAM,

I OUGHT to make an Apology for my long Silence. Yet instead of bringing an Apology, I come with a Request.—It is not to crave a Bank-Note, which You once bestowed. Nor to rescue me from an Arrest, which You generously projected to do; when You heard that I was under Confinement, but knew not that it was by Sickness. It is to request the Honour of your
Name;

Name; to dignify and recommend my Book, which has been, for a considerable Time, committed to the Press.—It will, I believe, be entitled

THERON and ASPASIO,
OR A
 S E R I E S
OF
 D I A L O G U E S
AND
 L E T T E R S

Upon the most *important* and *interesting* Subjects.

The Whole will constitute three Volumes. It will, I apprehend, make its Appearance, about the Time appointed for the Meeting of the Parliament. And I know no Person, whose Name would give the Author more Satisfaction, or be a higher Recommendation to his Performance, than your Ladyship's.—I dare not, however, gratify myself in this Particular, without asking your Leave; and I think, You cannot consistently with Prudence grant your Leave, till You have seen what the Author proposes to say. Permit me therefore to submit the following Attempt to your Ladyship's Judgment. Which, I trust, will neither be offensive to your

P

Delicacy,

Delicacy, nor is incompatible with my Character as a Minister of the Gospel.

To the Right Honourable

LADY FRANCES SHIRLEY, &c.—*See*
the Dedication to THERON and ASPASIO.

I HOPE, Madam, You will find nothing in this Address, that may be painful to Humility. And if so, give me Leave to promise Myself, that You will not with-hold this Instance of your Condescension and Favour from

Weston,
Sept. 28, 1754.

The Author of
Theron and Aspasio.

L E T T E R LXX.

MADAM,

ACCEPT my most grateful Acknowledgements for your last Favour. You have highly obliged me, in permitting me to grace my Work with your Name.—I have been, ever since I received your Ladyship's Letter, engaged to keep no less than eight Hands constantly employed in Printing. Which has taken up all my Time. Otherwise, I should long before this, have given myself the Pleasure, which I am now enjoying.

BE so kind, Madam, as to favour me with your Advice, Whether I should present the Book to the Princess, I must, I apprehend, present it to the Prince's Preceptor; because, He is our Diocesan, and treated me in a very genteel Manner, when I received Institution from Him.

THE Piece, I believe, in a Fortnight or three Weeks, will be ready for public View.—This is the last Frank I have. Could You, Madam, accommodate me with a fresh Supply. At this Juncture, a few of those Vehicles would be very welcome and serviceable. If You could indulge this Request, and lodge them with Mr. *Rivington* in St. *Paul's* Church-Yard, He would transmit them in his first Parcel to,

Madam,

Nov. 24,

Your most obliged

humble Servant,

L E T T E R LXXI.

MADAM,

YOUR Favour deserved the speediest Acknowledgement. To grant my Request, was obliging; to grant it so speedily, was like Yourself. The very first Post should have brought my Thanks,

but my Hands were tied. Tied by the Business of the Press. For, We have not yet finished the Book. You can hardly imagine, what Obstructions and Mistakes happen, in the Process of such a Work. Especially, when the Author is at a Distance from the Press.

I TAKE it for granted, your Ladyship approves of my presenting the Piece to the Princess. But would You have me attempt to put it into the Hands of the Prince? Dr. *Hales's* Expression seems to intimate some such Thing.—But I fear, this will be looked upon, as an Act of unbecoming Forwardness.—I question, whether the Bishop would think it a proper Book for his Royal Highness's Collection. I dare say, Mr. S—— (who, I am told, is the principal Director of the Prince's Conduct) would banish it, not for a Term of Years, but for ever; and not to the American Colonies, but to the Country of the Hottentots.—I dare not expect, that the Bishop Himself will like it. But perhaps He will dislike my Practice, if I do not pay Him the Compliment. When He gave Us a Charge, at his last Visitation, He inveighed against Enthusiasm on the one Hand, and Profaneness on the other. And some of our reverend Brethren took Notice, that, when delivering Himself on the former Topic, He frequently threw his Eye upon my Friend *H—* and me. However, this I must say, That He wrote me a very handsome Letter, when I presented Him with the Remarks on Lord *B—*; and in a private Letter,

Letter, which I happened to see, expressed no Disapprobation concerning the Meditations. All this I mention to your Ladyship, but to no Body else. And I promise myself, You will condescend to keep, as well as to give Counsel. I would speak the Truth as it is in JESUS, with Boldness and without Reserve. But of other People, and their Sentiments or Behaviour, I would speak with the utmost Caution, or rather not speak at all.

BE so good, Madam, as to favour me with your Opinion on this Point. And be assured, I have no Ambition of obtruding my Essay on such exalted Personages. I dare trust it with divine PROVIDENCE. HE, for whose Honour I write, has all Souls in his Hand; and can open whatever Doors, whatever Hearts He pleases, for the Reception of the Book.

I WAS pleased with your delicate Remark on the sincere and honest Doctor's Expression. And why will You not vouchsafe to make such Criticisms upon the Style and Sentiments of another Person? Especially, in those Lines which He is to have the Honour of addressing to your Ladyship in the most public Manner; and which may tell distant Nations, perhaps tell the Children that are yet unborn, that You did not disdain to be a Friend to,

Madam,

Your most obliged

humble Servant.

LETTER LXXII.

MADAM,

GIVE me Leave to thank You, and very sincerely, for your ingenious Criticisms on my Dedication. This I should have done sooner, had I not waited for the Opportunity of transmitting the enclosed. Here You see the Essay somewhat altered. It is, what the Printers call, the Proof-Sheet. Incorrect and on slovenly Paper. This Indelicacy Your Ladyship will be so good as to excuse. If I had staid, till it was neatly finished, it would be too late to receive your Opinion, at least to admit of your Improvements.

PERMIT me to think, that the Terms *accomplished Personage*, as they stand connected, cannot justly offend your Humility. I have asserted nothing; the Expression is general and indeterminate; and if the World should make the Application to Lady *Fanny Shirley*, I am persuaded, the Writer will neither be charged with Falsehood, nor suspected of Flattery.

I KNOW not how to part with the Words *wife* and *happy*. That You have chosen the *better* Part, at least that You have chosen the *religious* Part, is evident to all. Blindness must see it, and Prejudice cannot deny it. That to do this, is true Wisdom,
and

and the only Way to Happiness, must—for the Honour of our LORD, and the Dignity of his Cause—must be maintained. If I had said, that your Ladyship had made the greatest Proficiency in Religion, that You are a most shining Ornament to the Gospel, this might reasonably give You Offence; this, even when true, ought not to be said to any Person's Face. As to this Particular, I suppose You defective. “I wish You may BE, what You “patronize.” I take the Liberty to exhort You to advance, as One that has not yet attained.

UPON the whole; I would strictly guard against whatever had the least Approach to Adulation. It is a mean Artifice: it is also a shallow Device, such as defeats its own End; and instead of honouring, tends to discredit both the Giver and the Receiver.—I assure You, honoured Madam, it would grieve me beyond Expression, if any Thing should drop from my Pen, that might awaken the least Vanity in your Mind, or injure that most precious Virtue, Humility. This would be Poison instead of Balm. The HIGH and HOLY ONE *that inhabits Eternity, beholds the Vain and Conceited afar off.* There is no greater Object of his Indignation and Abhorrence. But HE *has respect unto the LOWLY: He dwells with the HUMBLE:* to them his Son JESUS CHRIST *is precious;* and they will be *to the Praise of the GLORY of his GRACE.*

WOULD You think it proper to shew the Dedication to Dr. Hales, and hear his Judgment upon

it? And will You be so obliging, as to favour me with your farther Sentiments upon this Subject? This Part need not be printed yet, as my Bookseller informs me, it will be impossible to publish before Christmas. He stays for the larger Edition, which was begun later, and proceeds but slowly.

THE Franks are come to my Hand; and as I shall have Occasion, at this Juncture, to write many Letters, a few more, when You can conveniently procure and transmit them, will be very acceptable to,

Your Ladyship's
most obliged,
humble Servant,

Weston,
Dec. 15, 1754.

LETTER LXXIII,

MADAM,

PARDON me, if in my last I seemed too tenacious of my own Opinion, and not to pay a proper Deference to your Judgment. I wrote in a Hurry; but have since considered more maturely, what You proposed, and what I remonstrated. Have therefore attempted to alter what You disapproved. Only You will allow me to retain the Words *accomplished Personage*, or, if You chuse it rather, *accomplished*

accomplished Person.—For the Credit of our holy Religion I would retain this Expression. Because, the giddy World have a Notion, or the malicious World would suggest, that None but Clowns and Rustics embrace the Gospel; that Christianity is to be found no where, but among the Refuse of Humanity.—Another Reason is, because I think, there is no Danger of your Ladyship's being vain, on Account of this Character. The Accomplishments of refined Manners and genteel Behaviour, are no more to a Person of your Rank in Life, than a little Knowledge of Latin and Greek is, to One who has received an Academic Education. I have no Reason to pique myself on this common Acquirement, but should have very great Reason to be ashamed, if I was totally destitute of it.—Besides, You will please to consider, that it is by no Means said, Your Ladyship is the accomplished Person. This, however I might think it undeniably true, I could not be so adulatory as to speak directly to your Face; nor imagine You so indelicate, as to be pleased with so gross a Compliment.

If You have not destroyed the Proof-Sheet, please to suppose all that is printed, from Pag. vi. Lin. 4. expunged; and read as follows;

Is there any Thing in the Amusements of the Gay, &c. See the Dedication.

FAVOUR me, good Madam, with your impartial Sentiments. This Part of my Book, You see, is printed in a remarkable Manner; and being the
first

first that meets the Reader's Eye, being dignified also with your Ladyship's Name, it will be more nicely observed, and more critically examined.

I HAVE a fresh Obligation to your Ladyship, for procuring me the Opinion of good *Dr. Hales*. I cannot but be pleased with his Approbation, and hope I shall be thankful to GOD, for giving me Favour and good Understanding in the Eyes of so valuable a Person. But I really fear, He suffers his friendly Temper to draw the Veil over his critical Discernment. Or else, let me speak it in Confidence of your Ladyship's Secrecy, I think, the Doctor does not know the World, nor understand Mankind. I do not apprehend, indeed I cannot persuade myself, that the Bishop will undertake to present the Books, or even consent to his Royal Pupil's reading them.—In Case the Bishop should present them, who knows in what Manner He may do it? Suppose, He should shrug his Shoulders, and say; An ambitious and conceited Clergyman of his Diocese by the Importunity of Request, in a Manner, forced Him upon this Office. How ungraceful would the Affair appear, and how unsuitable to Decorum of Conduct!—Upon the whole, I am in a State of real Perplexity. I would not seem to slight the *Doctor's* Opinion, much less reject his Sollicitation, yet I cannot prevail on myself to think, that to execute the Proposal would be the Propriety of Action.—I hope, Madam, You will give me your free Advice, and help to extricate me from this Embarrassment,

barrassiment, into which Yourself, yes, You Yourself have led me. For I should never have been known to such grand Personages, if You had not condescended to introduce me. My Name had never been heard by a Royal Ear, if it had not received some Credit by your Ladyship's Notice.

ABOVE all, may the LORD JESUS CHRIST, that WONDERFUL COUNSELLOUR vouchsafe to direct me in all my Ways! May I aim at nothing but the Honour of his blessed Name, nothing but the Furtherance of his glorious Gospel, and may HE be, according to his faithful Promise, *my Sun and my Shield!* May HE be also the *Strength of your Heart*, the Joy of your Life, and your *Portion for ever!*—I am,

Madam,

Your most obliged

and most obedient Servant.

Weston,

Dec. 26, 1754.

L E T T E R LXXIV.

MADAM,

LAST Night I had the Honour of your Letter. And the Pleasure was as great as the Honour. Therefore, on this Day, the very first Opportunity, I beg Leave to make my truly grateful Acknowledgements,—

ments.—I would also thank the gracious GOD, who has restored to your Ladyship that best of earthly Blessings, HEALTH. May this be your inseparable Attendant on the left Hand; while Peace of Conscience is your undivided Companion on the right; and the blessed SPIRIT of GOD, testifying of JESUS CHRIST, goes before You as an unerring Guide. Thus circumstanced, the Journey through the Wilderness of Life, will be rendered agreeable; and the Passage through the Shades of Death, not dreadful.

YOUR Ladyship's Conjecture is too true. I have indeed been very much out of Order. Visited with a Cough, which almost tore me to Pieces. I verily thought, it would have rent the House of Clay, and set the oppressed Inhabitant free. It still hangs upon me, but is somewhat less vehement. O for that happy World, where these frail, sickly, languishing Bodies will be made like unto CHRIST's Body. And who can describe, or who can imagine the Beauty, the Majesty, the Perfection of that wonderful Body? For my Part, I stedfastly believe, that it is by far the most highly finished and the most exquisitely fine Formation, that GOD ever brought into Existence through all the Extent of material Nature. May I not, congratulate You, Madam, on the Thought—that such a Dwelling is intended, such a Shrine is provided, for the everlasting Abode of your precious Soul?

THE

THE Advice You gave Mr. ———, is a Lesson for a Saint or a Hermit. To have our own Wills subdued, resigned, and sacrificed to GOD's, is a high Attainment in the Christian Life. If We think, that the LORD acts in an arbitrary Manner; disappoints and afflicts Us, to shew his Sovereignty; or because He is resolved to break our Humour, and curb our Inclination; We shall rather be inclined to fret and murmur, than dutifully and chearfully to acquiesce. Here then, as in all other Cases, We must *walk by Faith*, and the thorny Path will be smooth, the steep Ascent will be a Plain. If We believe, that GOD wounded his dear SON with the Sword of an Enemy and Avenger, but chastises Us with the Rod of a Father; that, through the great Propitiation, Wrath is removed, and all Dispensations proceed from Love, all Events work together for our Good; then We shall be reconciled to the Cup. The Draught is not Poison, but Medicine. Nothing will make it go down so readily, or sit so easily, as this Consideration. In this Faith may your Ladyship grow strong, even as your bodily Strength encreases; and I trust, will encrease, till your Health is established, as well as restored.

It becomes me to thank You, for your continued Kindness to Mr. ———. Though I am satisfied, You do not much desire Thanks from either of Us, but that We both thank GOD on your Behalf. To bring some Glory to GOD, is the Height of
your

your Ladyship's Ambition. Prime Ministers and Conquerors may have a different, but I am very sure, they cannot have a nobler Ambition.—I speak without Flattery, when I take Leave to declare, that your Indignation was truly becoming, when it was expressed against the untractable and capricious Temper of ———. If the poor Man relates what You said, I fancy, He will not venture to preserve the Emphasis of your Air and Accent. I wish, therefore, the vain selfish Creature had seen and heard You. Because, *as the North-Wind driveth away Rain, so doth an angry Countenance a silly forward Humour.*—I am not certain, that You expect to have the enclosed Letter returned; and though I am sufficiently certain, that it is not worth your Expectation, yet as it is your Ladyship's Property, I dare not with-hold it. The Person hinted at, is *Mr. John Wesley*. He takes me very roundly to Task, on the Score of Predestination. At which I am much surprized. Because a Reader, ten Times less penetrating than He is, may easily see, that this Doctrine (be it true or false) makes no Part of my Scheme; never comes under Consideration; is purposely and carefully avoided. I cannot but fear, He has some sinister Design. Put the Wolf's Skin on the Sheep, and the Flock will shun Him, the Dogs will worry Him. I do not charge such an Artifice, but sometimes I cannot help forming a Suspicion.—If I live to do myself the Honour of writing again to your Ladyship, I hope, You will
give

give me Leave to relate the whole Affair, as it stands between Mr. *Wesley* and myself.—It is well, Madam, that You are pretty much recovered; otherwise, this long Letter would tire your Spirits; and now, I imagine, it will try your Patience. But if, while it tries, it improves it, You will be a Gainer even from the officious Prolixity of,

Your Ladyship's

Weston, most obedient,

Jan. 9, 1755. humble Servant,

L E T T E R LXXV.

MADAM,

TO write, is a Favour, and not to write, for the Reason, which your Ladyship mentions, is a Favour. So that You have the Art, to make, both, your Letters and your Silence obliging.

THE Bookseller has at last informed me, that my Presents will be ready to be sent on Wednesday. So that now I have Abundance of Letters to write, by Way of Introduction to *Theron* and *Aspasio*. And first let me address their PATRONESS.—From You, Madam, I shall only beg Pardon, for deviating from the common Strain of Dedication. I have written more like your Pastor, than your Flatterer.

And

And as One who seems desirous to make You happy, rather than vain. Methinks, I hear some *petit Maitre*—if any such should be at the Pains to go through one of the Pages—say; “Why this Clown “is solicitous to point out the Way to *Heaven*, “rather than to say all Manner of fine Things of “her *Ladyship*.”—Be it so, Sir; her *Ladyship* forgives me; nay more, approves my Conduct; and there is such a Thing as *Conscience*, with which You are little acquainted, that adds its Approbation to all. And, having all this to countenance and support me, I believe, I shall sit very calm and easy under your Censures.

LET me once more return my Thanks to your *Ladyship*, for permitting me to grace my Essay with your Name. I trust, it is a Name, that is written in the Book of Life, and written on the Palms of our exalted REDEEMER's Hands. I hope to shew my Gratitude to its Owner, by imploring for Her all spiritual Blessings, and that the Piece, which She reads may testify of CHRIST to her Soul. Then that, even *that*, will be one, though the least of the Blessings which I wish.—I will order the Books to be delivered, by the very first Messenger on Wednesday, and according to your Directions.

I HOPE, when You receive *Theron* and *Aspasio*, You will favour me with your *free* Sentiments concerning them. And if they are taken any Notice of by the polite World, be so kind, Madam, as to
give

give me a Hint of their Opinion. You need not be afraid of grieving their Author. He remembers what his divine MASTER says, *Blessed is He that shall not be offended in me!* Intimating, that Multitudes will be offended.—Besides, by learning what prejudices and disgusts the elegant Reader, I shall be the better enabled to obviate such Prejudices, and attempt a Reconciliation of the Judgment to my Doctrines.

THIS Day, I propose, with the divine Assistance, to open and apply to my People that invaluable Text, *Acts* iii. 26. May You, Madam, abundantly enjoy the Blessing, and may it be clearly, convincingly, acceptably displayed by

Weston, Your most obedient,
Feb. 9. 1755. humble Servant.

L E T T E R LXXVI.

MADAM,

I WRITE this, in some Measure to beg Pardon for the prodigious Haste and Rapidity, with which I was obliged to write my last Letter. In some Measure to beg your Ladyship's Opinion upon a Hint, which your own Letter has occasioned.

Q

You

You was pleased to tell me, your Sentiments were asked, concerning some Present, which a certain Lady intended to make to the Author of *The-ron and Aspasio*. I assure You, Madam, He had no Expectation of any, only that his Books might be favourably accepted, and attended with the divine Blessing. If they might be the Means of spreading abroad the Savour of CHRIST's Name; of promoting the Knowledge of his glorious Excellency, his free Grace, and everlasting Righteousness, He should think Himself unspeakably indebted to the Giver of all Good.

BUT since the afore-mentioned Affair was started, give me Leave to say, that my Thirst after Books is very much allayed; I have bid adieu to the curious and entertaining Inventions of Wit or Discoveries of Science; my principal Attention is now devoted to the sacred Oracles of Inspiration. These I should be glad to have in their noblest Form and highest Perfection. And I find, there is now published a very fine Edition of the Hebrew Scriptures by Father *Houbigant*. — If the Point should ever come upon the Carpet again, be pleased, if You think it proper, just to suggest, that You dare venture to affirm, from a general Knowledge of his Taste, that *such* a Present would be singularly acceptable, and, I hope, it would be beneficial.

I do not know the Price. Though I fear it will be costly; as it consists of four *Tomes in Folio*, and as *Hebrew* Printing is uncommonly expensive. In

the enclosed Paper, the Book is advertised, and some small Account given of its Contents. I have marked the Passages with Crosses, that your Ladyship may not have Trouble of searching.—After all I leave the whole to your Ladyship's Discretion; and shall think my Interests very safe, and the Propriety of my Conduct equally secure, if You will condescend to undertake for both.

Good Mr. *Whitefield*, I am informed, meets with great Favour, and preaches with great Success in our Colonies. The LORD makes Him, as the Prophet speaks, *like his goodly Horse in the Battle. He goes forth conquering and to conquer.* May You also, my honourable Madam, go forth in the Strength of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and travel with Singing unto Sion, where everlasting Joy shall be upon your Head. And there, among the innumerable Company of just Men made perfect, may You see

Weston,

Your most obliged,
Feb 23, 1755. humble Servant.

Q.

L E T.

LETTER LXXVII.

MADAM,

WHAT a Pleasure shall I enjoy, if the LORD JESUS vouchsafes to make my Books acceptable to your Ladyship, and edifying to your Soul! I say *acceptable*; for, You may depend upon it, many People will be disgusted with them and their Sentiments. You remember, WHO it is that says, *Blessed is He, whosoever shall not be offended in ME.*—CHRIST himself was a Sign, that should be spoken against; his Doctrine was to some *Foolishness*, and to others *a Stumbling-Block*; and the Preachers of it, were sometimes pronounced *mad*, and generally treated as the *Offscouring of all Things*. So that You will not be surpris'd, if You should see the Book, which is adorned with your Ladyship's Name, fiercely attacked, severely censured, and illiberally reproached. Not that I have as yet received any such Compliments, but I have long ago given myself Warning of their Approach.

PRAY, Madam, do not be so injurious to Yourself, as to suppose that what You write, can be disagreeable to me. I never see any Thing disagreeable in your Letters, unless it be what the Printers call *The large Whites*.—Mr. Law's last Book I have not seen; neither indeed do I desire to see it: especially,

cially, if it be written in the same Strain, as one of his Letters upon DIVINE LOVE, which happened to fall in my Way. *Fall in my Way!* No, truly. It did not *fall*, but soared. Soared in mystical Flights and metaphysical Subtilties, far too high for my groveling Apprehensions to follow. And not *in my Way*, but as far remote from my trite and vulgar Way of thinking, as *Britain* is from *Japan*.—O! Madam, let Us adhere to the Scriptures; as new-born Babes desire the sincere Milk of the Word; and implore the Influences of the blessed SPIRIT, that We may grow thereby.

I SHOULD be uneasy about the Contents of my last Letter, were they in any other Hands, but your Ladyship's. If what I mentioned be an improper Proposal, You will have such a kind Regard to the unadvised Writer, as to stifle and suppress his Project. And I do assure You, Madam, I can bear to have it suppressed. My Heart is not set upon that or any other Book. As I have the Bible in its pure and sacred Original, I can dispense with the Circumstance of a grand and pompous Form.

I HAVE received a very friendly Letter from the *Bishop*: and Dr. *Hales* has transmitted to me the Thanks of her Royal Highness. Alas, Madam! What Good does this do me? Or, if I were presented to a Deanery, what Service would that do me, when I stand at the great Tribunal? Blessed JESUS let not my poor Endeavours be rewarded with such Chaff. Be Thou glorified; let Souls be

redified; and then *they* who read, and *he* who wrote, may one Day rejoice together.

You see, Madam, I do not leave much of the *large White*, when I have the Honour of subscribing myself,

Your Ladyship's

Weston,

most obedient,

March 1, 1755.

humble Servant.

LETTER LXXVIII.

MADAM,

YESTERDAY I received your noble Present — a magnificent and beautiful Sett of Books! The Paper fine, the Type grand, the Binding rich, the principal Contents invaluable. What the Notes are, I am not able to judge; not having, as yet, Time to make an Examination. — When I think of this Instance of your Ladyship's Munificence; the Care, the Trouble, the Expence to which You have submitted; when I reflect on the free, generous, obliging Air, with which all was undertaken, all dispatched, and all presented; may I not very justly turn, what was sometimes used by Way of Imprecation, into an Act of Devotion and an Expression of Gratitude? *The LORD*, the good LORD,

LORD, *do so to You, Madam, and more also!*— And there is great Reason to trust, that HE will not only answer, but *outdo* and infinitely surpass even the warmest Wishes, which a grateful Heart can form. For thus I find it written, in that sacred Book which You have been pleased to put into my Possession; thus it is declared by the SPIRIT of divine Inspiration; *Therefore will the LORD wait, that He may be gracious unto You; and therefore will He be exalted, that He may have Mercy upon You: for the LORD is a GOD of Judgment, blessed are all they that wait for Him.*

I WONDER, how your Ladyship found the Books. If I remember right, there was no Direction of this Sort, in the printed Advertisement.

THE Franks likewise are come; and tell me, what a *condescending* as well as *liberal* Friend I have in LADY FRANCES SHIRLEY. Who neither disdains small, nor grudges large and expensive Offices of Kindness; but whether it be the Case of a Letter, or a superb and costly Volume, is *ready to distribute and willing to communicate*. May the LORD JESUS CHRIST be your Friend and Portion; be your Shield, my dear and honourable Madam, and your exceeding great Reward. And when I forget to pray for these Blessings, then let me no longer enjoy the Pleasure of professing myself

Weston, Your Ladyship's most obliged,
March 16, 1755. and most obedient humble Servant.

P. S. THE Bookfeller fully executed your Ladyship's Orders. For the Books were nicely packed up, and came without the least Injury, and are the *finest* Volumes in my Study. May they also be the most useful.

LETTER LXXIX.

MADAM,

I AM not a little glad, if any Thing that *Theron* or *Aspasio* say, meets with your Approbation. May the LORD JESUS CHRIST make me thankful, and make the Essay a Blessing to your Soul. How mighty is his Arm, and how gracious is his Heart! He *can* work by the *weakest* Instruments, and often *does* work by the *unworthiest*. When I remember this, I have Hope; when I forget or disbelieve it, I am discouraged.

THOUGH nothing would please me more, than to furnish out the Page of Pleasure and Improvement for your Ladyship; yet I should be very much obliged, if, in your tender and delicate Manner, You would point out the Faults: what You *hear* to be Faults, or what You *think* to be Faults. The harshest Truths, communicated in such a Way, would

would cease to be offensive. But I assure You, they would not be harsh to me. I expect, that, in a Work of this Size, there are Escapes and Improprieties not a few. Be so good therefore as to say, *This* Expression was inelegant, and disgusted me; *this* was obscure, and puzzled me. *Here* the Sentiments are redundant; *there* the Argument is defective. In *one* Place, your Persons speak too much like the mere Scholar; in *another*, they make too near an Approach to the Dialect of the Rustic. I heard *such a Passage* blamed at one Time; and *such an Opinion* censured at another.

Is not Mr. — an Author? Has not He written the Roman History? If He be the Gentleman I apprehend, He has an Eagle's Eye, and will easily discern the Defects, which if in Conversation You would learn, and in a Letter would please to transmit, the Information might be highly serviceable, as it would be truly acceptable.—I expect to receive more Advantage from my Enemies, than my Friends. The latter peruse with Partiality; the former will examine with Rigour. Yet I have been prevailed on, by the Sollicitations of my Bookseller, to commit another Edition to the Press, before any of my Adversaries, or rather Adversaries to my *Doctrine*, have appeared on the Stage.

It gives me Satisfaction to hear, that your Ladyship approves Letter V. This is really the Corner Stone, which supports the whole; the Hinge, on which the precious Privilege of a SAVIOUR's
imputed

imputed Righteousness turns. May your Ladyship be enabled, every Day, to see more and more the glorious Excellency of this distinguished Prerogative, and live in the habitual Enjoyment of the unspeakable Blessing. To with this, and turn such Wishes into Prayer, is the only Way in which I can duly express my Gratitude for your Generosity to,
Madam,

March 22, 1755.

Your most obliged
humble Servant.

L E T T E R LXXX.

MADAM,

FOR the Sake of my honourable and honoured PATRONESS, I rejoice and bless GOD, if He pleases to give my Books any favourable Acceptance. O! may his eternal SPIRIT vouchsafe to breathe upon the tender Plant! Then *its Branches shall spread, and its Smell shall be as Lebanon. Its Branches shall spread*; it shall be received with Approbation; it shall find its Way into many Hands; and be diffused far and near. *Its Smell shall be as Lebanon*; welcome to the Reader, as the Gales which have swept that odoriferous Mountain,
are

are to the Traveller; when they meet Him on his sultry Journey, and refresh Him with their Coolness, and delight Him with their Fragrance.—Thus shall it be with the Books, which the LORD GOD Omnipotent condescends to countenance and honour. *Hosea* xiv. 6.

I AM glad, your Ladyship approves the closing Part. Give me Leave to wish, that it may be woven into the very Texture of your Heart. May You experience all that *Aspasio* says! And be found in CHRIST—be one with CHRIST—be complete in CHRIST. Happy then, substantially happy will You be, in Life; and happy, beyond all Imagination happy, at Death.

Breakfast at four in the Morning! Is it really F—O—U—R? Or have I mistook your Characters? As You have honoured me with so many Letters, I have Reason to be pretty well acquainted with the Turn of your Pen. Yet I can hardly believe my own Eyes. Does Lady Frances Shirley ever rise so early, for the Sake of serious Conversation and spiritual Improvement? At this Rate, Madam, You enjoy a Day, before the Generality of Persons of Quality begin it.—This was the Practice of our divine Master. He frequently rose up a great while before Day, for the important Exercise of Devotion. At those early Hours, may You enjoy much of his heavenly Presence, and drink in large Draughts of Consolation from those *Wells of Salvation*—the SCRIPTURES!

THE

THE Method which Mr. H—— takes to obtain Comfort, is perfectly right. *Hannah was a Woman of a sorrowful Spirit; She was in Bitterness of Soul; but She prayed to the LORD; and her Countenance was no more sad.*—The Word of GOD was written for this very End, that *We through Patience and Comfort of the Scriptures might have Hope.* We should therefore treasure it up in our Memories, and beseech GOD to write it on our Hearts, that it may be a Cordial to our Spirit in the Hour of Trouble. This is what I earnestly recommend to my People, and frame all my public Discourses, so as to promote and facilitate this desirable End. Having named the Text, when I come to handle the Subject, I select some precious Portion of Scripture; desire my Hearers to *turn to it in their Bibles*; and then (as GOD enables) enlarge upon it. By this Means, Persons of the weakest Memory may, if not carry away, yet retrieve the Substance of the Sermon. May, like the blessed Virgin, lay it up in their Minds, and *ponder it in their Hearts.* My last Text was *Heb. x. 14.* From this I endeavoured to shew, that CHRIST has obtained perfect Redemption for Sinners—perfect Deliverance from Hell, *Zech. ix. 11.*—perfect Peace with God, *Coloss. i. 20.*—a free Admittance into Heaven, *Rev. vii. 14, 15.*—the Gift of true Sanctification, *Heb. xiii. 20, 21.* And all this by *one* Offering, because it is divine, all-sufficient, and of infinite Value.—Now, in Case my Hearers should forget every Part of the Minister's

nister's Discourse, yet if they *recollect*, and *ponder*, and *pray over* these Portions of GOD's Word, they may have abundant Matter for Edification.—I believe, You love to crop a *Snow-Drop* or an *Hepatica* with your own Hand. For which Reason, I have not transcribed those Passages, that You may have the Pleasure of gathering for Yourself those Flowers of Heaven. With these may your Soul be richly replenished, and be a *Garden enclosed* for JESUS to walk in.

Weston, I give all—Your most obliged
April 1, 1753. humble Servant.

L E T T E R LXXXI.

MADAM,

I SHOULD be the most unreasonable of Creatures, if I did not firmly believe, what You are pleased, with so much condescending Goodness, to assure me of—That I have a real Friend, in my truly honourable and highly honoured Correspondent. Yet let me not make too free with Generosity and Beneficence. I had no Thoughts, when I wrote about the Bibles, of any Thing but an Application to Mr. K——. I did not know, but He might

might be glad of such an Opportunity to do Good; and therefore all that I desired, was, to have it put in his Way.—To tell Your Ladyship the real Truth, I do not want such Books for myself. Blessed be GOD, my own Writings are a Fund for such charitable Expences. But I had some other Ministers, whose Circumstances are less affluent, in my Eye. These I proposed to supply with a few Bibles; by disposing of which, in a judicious Manner, among their Neighbours, they may win their Affections, and promote their Salvation.—Having laid before You, Madam, the Truth of the Case, act as You think proper. Reverse or execute your Intention, just as You please. Either Way, I shall be satisfied, obliged, and thankful.

I FEAR, I should put your Ladyship to too much Trouble, if I should beg a short Account of Mr. G——'s Treatment. —I hope Mr. Campbell, when He pleads the Cause, will be, as the Prophet *Jeremiah* speaks, “*valiant for the Truth.*” Our *Bishop*, I presume, was not concerned in the Affair. This Week He sent me a very friendly and polite Letter; sweetened with much Approbation, and seasoned with some Remarks, of a critical and refined Nature. It is the second his Lordship has favoured me with on the Subject. As it relates to *your own Book*, perhaps it may not be disagreeable to your Ladyship to peruse it. I will therefore take the Liberty to enclose it, together with the young Man's from Biddeford. That You may see, at one View,

View, the Sentiments of the Courtier and the Mechanic, the improved Scholar and the Man of natural Sense. The latter Letter You will please to commit to the Flames, that it may not enflame my Vanity; the first You will be so good as to return, that it may tend to the Improvement of *Theron* and *Aspasio*. Though, I must confess, the Observations, all but the last, come too late to have due Regard paid to them.

THE vain Amusements and empty Pleasures of the World, I hope, will endear the Motto and its Subject to your Affections. In JESUS is infinite Dignity and everlasting Righteousness. To contemplate Him, is a Source of the sublimest Pleasure; to call HIM our own, is a Foundation for the most solid Happiness. — That both, that *all these* may be your Ladyship's Portion, is the sincere Prayer of,

Madam,

Weston,

June 1, 1755.

Your most obliged

and most obedient Servant.

L E T -

LETTER LXXXII.

MADAM,

YOU will observe, from the Frank which encloses this Letter, that I have received your Ladyship's Favour. The Books are come; and noble Books they are. The LORD JESUS enable me to dispose of them in such a Manner, that Glory may redound to his Name, and Good be communicated to his People!—The Franks also are arrived. May I be assisted to make a proper Use of these also! That they may be the Vehicle of some edifying Truths, and a Means of diffusing the Knowledge of a crucified REDEEMER!—O that the first (the Bibles I mean) might be like the Pillar of Fire in the Wilderness, or the meridian Sun in the Firmament; the latter (my epistolary Correspondence) like a burning Coal, or a glowing Spark from the Altar, to enkindle the Love of THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS!

For both these Presents You will please to accept my best Thanks; and may the good LORD turn my poor Thanks into heavenly Blessings!

ALMOST all my former Letters have been most unfashionably, most ungenteely prolix. For once I will endeavour to be politely concise: not give your Ladyship the Trouble of turning the Paper, and reading.

reading a tedious Scrawl, but only beg the Honour
of subscribing myself,

Madam,

Weston,
June 19.

Your most obliged,
and very humble Servant.

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

MADAM,

WHEN I commend your Judgment in spiritual Things, I do it not from Flattery, but from a conscious Joy. I bless GOD on this Behalf myself, and I give your Ladyship Occasion to praise his Holy Name on the same Account. And not only to praise Him for past Mercies, but to hope more chearfully and assuredly for a Continuation, or rather for an Augmentation of them. All the LORD's Gifts are a Pledge and an Earnest of richer Favours. Methinks, they come inscribed with this delightful and encouraging Motto, *Thou shalt see greater Things than these.*

Ah Madam! do not wonder, if you observe in worldly People an Enmity against the Children of GOD and the Servants of CHRIST. As soon may Fire and Water incorporate, as the Contraries of their Temper be reconciled. You know Who hath said, *If they have persecuted ME, they*

R

will

will also persecute You.—This, though the natural Tendency of Men's Spirits, is over-ruled by the HIGHEST for the Good of his People. *David*, when persecuted by *Saul*, could fly even to an idolatrous City, *Gath*. And shall not the Followers of JESUS fly to their EVERLASTING FATHER'S Arms, when they are calumniated or cruelly treated by their Fellow-Creatures? Especially, since He has declared, that He will *gather them, as a Hen gathereth her Chickens under her Wings*. With infinite Compassion He will *receive* them, and with Almighty Power *protect* them.—I do not wish my honoured Lady to be a Partaker of Persecution; but I most heartily wish Her a perpetual Residence under those Wings of eternal Love. That She may have all the Safety, Repose, and Comfort, without any of the embittering Circumstances. Being led thither by Choice, not driven thither by the Scourge.

I AM glad to hear, that the Report of Sir J—— L———r's Death is false. Glad, because He is so complaisant to my noble Friend, and so generous to my worthy Soldier.—I hope, He (the Soldier, I mean) is a real Child of GOD. And see! by what unthought of, wonderful Ways the great immortal FATHER provides for the Welfare of ~~His~~ Children! Who would have suspected, that a common Soldier in Captain R———'s Troop, who, a few Months ago, had not so much as heard of Lady Frances Shirley's Name, should now be brought to
her

her Knowledge; be honoured with her Regard; and obtain his Desires by her Interest? Who would not covet, who would not be ambitious, to be a Child of the most HIGH? Since He can influence any or all Hearts in Favour of his Sons and Daughters. —My good Madam, prize this Privilege above all your Honours. Prize it far beyond all your high Titles or illustrious Lineage. You are by Birth the Daughter of an Earl; but by Grace You are a CHILD of GOD. As such, go to HIM with Pleasure and Confidence; make known all your Requests in his indulgent Ear; expect from Him all spiritual Blessings in this World, and an *Inheritance incorruptible and undefiled* in another World. And may We bless, for ever bless the divine JESUS, through whose Humiliation and Death We enjoy this great Prerogative. *Ye are the Children of GOD*, says the Apostle, *through Faith in JESUS CHRIST*. To which our LORD himself adds, *I go to MY Father and YOUR Father*; first my Father, and then yours; yours because of me, your Relation to me, and Union with me.

I HAVE just now read, advertised in the Magazine, the following Book, “An Epistle from Charles Wesley to John Wesley.” Has your Ladyship seen or heard of it? If You have, be so good as to inform me of the Design and Contents. I hope, there is no Hostility commenced between the Brethren. I have no Connection nor Correspondence with them, but should be sorry for such an Event.

For your Account of this Piece I shall be, as for
your Account of Mr. G——r's Treatment,
I am,

Madam,

Weston,

July 5, 1755.

Your most obliged

and obedient humble Servant.

LETTER LXXXIV.

MADAM,

I FULLY intended myself the Pleasure of writing to your Ladyship by the last Post; but, by an unexpected Visit from a Relation, was prevented. —I hope, Mr. T—— has, before this Time, delivered my Letter; and that my Acknowledgements, poor as they are, have been honoured with your Acceptance.

MR. T—— staid with me but a little while. He came, just as I was going to take Horse, for a little Air and Exercise. We had some Discourse, at our first Interview, on the matchless Excellencies and *unsearchable Riches of CHRIST*. The holy Scriptures were the Subject of our next Conversation. We encouraged one another to *search* them, and to enrich our Memories with them. That from them, accompanied by the Divine SPIRIT, We may be *thoroughly furnished* for our ministerial Office,
and

and for every good *Work*. O ! that they may dwell in Us richly ; and be mixed with Faith, while We read them, contemplate them, talk of them.

I AM pleased with your Ladyship's Criticisms upon the Books You peruse. They shew, that You remember the Apostle's Rule, *Prove all Things*. May You also be enabled to follow his excellent Direction, *Hold fast that which is good*.—Dr. Crisp proceeds upon that important, but too much disregarded Principle; That We should work, not *for* Life, but *from* Life. Our Works should proceed from the SPIRIT of the LORD JESUS, dwelling in our Hearts ; and then they will be truly good. They should aim, not at obtaining Salvation for Ourselves, but at glorifying HIM, who hath obtained eternal Redemption for Us ; and then they will be truly acceptable.

THE Apostle says, as You rightly observe, *Repent and be baptized*. But if a poor Sinner had asked Him this Question, *How shall I repent ? What shall melt my stony Heart ? What shall make me abhor myself and my most beloved Lusts ?* To this Effect He would probably have replied—Nothing but THE GRACE OF GOD manifested in CHRIST. Believe, that the LORD hath delivered up his dearest Son to die in your Stead. Believe, that the blessed JESUS has borne every one of your Sins, in his bleeding Body, and on the cursed Tree. This, under the Influence of the HOLY GHOST, will soften the hard Heart.

This will alienate your Affections from all Iniquity. By this You will be taught godly Sorrow, *Zech. xii. 10.* and evangelical Humiliation, *Ezek. xxxvi.*

YOUR two Books upon the *Catechism* shall be disposed of. I wish, they may prove a Blessing, where-ever they go. Is not this a proper Treatise, to be admitted into the Catalogue of *the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge*?—May HE that *was dead, but is alive for evermore*, be the Delight of your Heart and the Strength of your Salvation! In the mean Time, or rather at all Times, permit me to be,

Madam,

Weston,

Oct. 14, 1755.

Your most obedient,

as I am your most obliged,
humble Servant.

LETTER LXXXV.

MADAM,

I HAD taken Paper out of my Drawers, on purpose to acknowledge the Receipt of your *double* Favour, by the last Post. But when I came to address myself to the pleasing Business, I could not find your first Letter. This Instant, opening Dr. *Crisp*, it made its Appearance.

I AM

I AM not at all surpris'd, my good Lady, to find You or Mr. K——, making Objections to the Doctrine of Predestination. I wish Mr. K—— would pass over those few and short Passages, which treat of that controverted Point. I did not, in any wise, recommend this Book, on Account of those Passages; but on Account of what is plain and edifying, of universal Concernment and exceedingly comfortable. Suppose, a Reader disapproves that particular Tenet; methinks, He should not be prejudic'd, purely on such a Consideration, against those Truths, which are worthy of all Acceptation.

PREDESTINATION is an Abyss, in which our Thoughts may be drowned; especially, if We have not "our Senses exercis'd to discern both Good and Evil." But there are pleasant Streams in our Author, which are not too deep for our Capacity, and which afford Us the sweetest Refreshment. To these let Us advert; by these let Us fix our Abode. As to the other Points, let Us say with the moderate and judicious *Elihu* (not, I am certain, it cannot be so. This does not bespeak an humble child-like Spirit. But) *that which I see not, teach Thou me.*

THERE is, doubtless, Abundance to be said against Predestination. And Abundance has been said, with great Force of Argument, for its Support; and that, by Men of the most eminent Learning and exalted Piety. As this is the Case; and as

it is not necessary to Faith and Salvation, either that We should embrace, or that We should reject the Doctrine; I think, We may prudently and safely acquiesce in the Advice of a great Scholar and a great Saint; "Let a Man go to the Grammar-School of Faith and Holiness, before He enters the University of Election and Predestination." I am at the Grammar-School; and there, perhaps, I shall continue, till I hear the Voice from Heaven, saying; *Come up hither, and I will shew Thee*, what Thou couldst not comprehend in the Regions below.—Madam, shall I have the Honour of your Ladyship for a Form-Fellow? *You* shall be the Head-Scholar; only be content to allow Us your Company, and do not leave Us for a higher Class. Let Us study the Glories of CHRIST's Person, and the Love of his Heart; let Us contemplate his infinite Satisfaction and everlasting Righteousness. May the Knowledge of these grand Doctrines be revealed in our Hearts by the blessed SPIRIT! May the Faith of these unspeakable Privileges comfort our Souls, purify our Affections, and *work by Love!* Then, We shall, ere long, see every dark mysterious Point cleared up to our full Satisfaction. We shall see, without a Veil, the shining and adorable Perfections of our GOD. We shall know his unsearchable Counsels and wonderful Ways, *even as We are known.*

IN the mean Time, if worthy Mr. K—— dislikes the Book, there is no great Harm done, as it
was

was not a very expensive Purchase. I would beg Leave to decline all Controversy. I can very freely converse or correspond with Persons, who either adopt or discard Predestination. Provided, they will not drag in the litigated Proposition, and force me to engage in Disputation. But if they are determined to obtrude the Bone of Contention, I had much rather remain alone and in Silence. For I readily confess, that I am not Master of the Subject. Therefore, it would be very unadvised in me, to undertake either its Establishment or Refutation.

I BELIEVE, I must desire your Ladyship to return this Letter, with your free Remarks upon it. Because, I do not know, but I shall be obliged to explain myself on this Subject, before the Public. Because, a Person who makes a great Figure in the religious World, has sent me some critical Remarks and pretty keen Censures on my late Work; but inveighs particularly against my Predestination Principles. At which I am somewhat surprised. Because, I have (whatever my Sentiments are) studiously avoided this Peculiarity; I have but barely mentioned it; in the Apostle's own Words; only in an incidental Manner; and without explaining, enlarging upon, or inculcating it. My Paper permits me to do no more, than that I am,

Your Ladyship's most obliged
and most humble Servant.

Weston, Nov. 25,

L E T-

LETTER LXXXVI.

MADAM,

YOUR last very much alarmed me. I hope, this will find You abundantly better. I hope, our great PHYSICIAN has *rebuked the Fever*, and restored You to Health. And I humbly beg of GOD, that your Ladyship may live in the Exercise of that important Duty, and in the Enjoyment of that precious Promise, mentioned by the Prophet—*They that wait upon the LORD, shall renew their Strength.*

BE so good, Madam, as to rejoice my Heart by a Line, and send me the welcome News, that your Recovery is completed. I will then, when your Spirits are recruited, venture to trouble your Ladyship with a longer Letter. I will then return the Manuscript enclosed in your last; and I will trust, ere long, to meet your Ladyship in those happy Regions—*where the Inhabitant shall no more say, I am sick—where Death shall be swallowed up in Victory—where the LORD GOD will wipe away all Tears from our Eyes—and, what is unspeakably more desirable, will remove all Ignorance from our Understanding, and all Corruption from our Heart.—*

Blessed

LADY FRANCES SHIRLEY. 251

Blessed Hope! May it, every Day, shine brighter
and brighter upon your Ladyship, and upon,

Madam,

Wetton,

Your most obliged

Dec. 13, 1755.

and obedient Servant,

L E T T E R LXXXVII.

NO, my Lady: I do not presume to *give Advice*, when I have the Honour of writing to your Ladyship. My Letters come on no such Errand; but with more humble and decent Views. They wait upon your Ladyship, not to dictate Precepts, but to propose some Points of Importance to *your own* Consideration. They come, on much the same Design, and in the very same Capacity, as the Servant at *Philip's* Door: where He was ordered to repeat daily that instructive Admonition, "Sir, remember That You must die." Which was nothing more, than reminding the Monarch of what He knew, but might not so habitually advert to.

I HOPE, your Ladyship is more and more delighted with that incomparable Book, the BIBLE: justly so called, by way of distinguished Superiority to all other Compositions in the World. I heartily wish, your Ladyship may see the Glories, and taste
the

the Sweetness, of the divine Word. Your Ladyship will then have Reason to say, "Among all the Libraries of the Learned, among all the Entertainments of the Polite, There is None, there is Nothing like IT."

THE Scriptures, my Lady, are intended by their ever-blessed Author, for the most desirable and gracious Purposes. Infomuch, that a royal and inspired Penman, knew not how to express his Gratitude for such an inestimable Treasure. *LORD, what Love have I unto thy Law!* It's Worth is so great; my Esteem for it is so dear; that I have no adequate Words, to declare either the One or the Other. But, where my Tongue is defective, there let my Practice speak. *All the Day long is my Study in it.*—A Commendation this, which your Ladyship will easily discern, to be far more emphatical than all the Strains of Eloquence. A Commendation, which, I flatter myself, your Ladyship will adopt; and, as it came from the Mouth of a King, will not be ashamed to make it your own.

IF We take a Survey of all our Wants, We shall find an abundant Supply in this heavenly Magazine.—Are We in Quest of *Knowledge*? The Scriptures are calculated to communicate this Blessing. *When thy Word goeth forth, it giveth Light and Understanding unto the Simple.* It is called, *A Light shining in a dark Place*; illuminating the dark Corners, (can your Ladyship bear the Expression? if I add) the gloomy Dungeon, of the human Heart. The Psalmist

mist most elegantly compares the holy Word of GOD to the magnificent Lamp of Day. *That as richly furnished to pour sacred Wisdom through the Soul, as this to diffuse meaner Splendours through the Firmament. It is, to say all in a Word, able to make wise unto Salvation, through the Faith which is in JESUS CHRIST.*

Do We want that precious *Faith*, mentioned in the preceding Quotation? This, though the Gift of GOD, is wrought by his WORD. *Faith cometh by hearing*, by reading, by meditating on, the Oracles of eternal Truth. These testify of CHRIST. They display his almighty Power, and infinite Goodness; the Fulness of his Grace, and the Freedom of his Merits. In them, He is evidently set forth, both crucified, and exalted: most beautifully portrayed, in his sublime Honours, *and unsearchable Riches*.—They therefore are admirably suited, to create a supreme Esteem of CHRIST; to excite an ardent Longing for CHRIST; and produce an unfeigned Acquiescence in CHRIST. Thus are they fitted, by way of noble Instrument, to work that leading Christian Grace, a lively Faith.

ARE We desirous of being renewed after the *divine Likeness*?—This is the very Essence of Religion. A Qualification, indispensably necessary for our Enjoyment of future Blessedness. An Endowment, in Comparison of which, Sceptres and Coronets are empty Toys. The Apostle says upon this

this Subject, and his Words are worthy to be written on the Tables of every Heart; *GOD has given Us EXCEEDING GREAT and PRECIOUS Promises, that by these Ye might be Partakers of the divine Nature.* These are a Refiner's Fire, to burn up the Dross of inbred Corruption; and a sacred Seal, to instamp the amiable Image of our Redeemer on the Mind. In short; those Volumes of Inspiration are adapted and ordained by unerring Wisdom, *to make the Man of GOD perfect; thoroughly furnished to every good Work.*—I believe, it would not be improper, if your Ladyship addressed Yourself to the Study of the Bible, with these grand Advantages in View. And I assure your Ladyship, I shall not cease to pray, that You may not only partake of them, but be filled with them; or, as One of your favourite Authors expresses Himself, *be filled with all the Fulness of GOD.*—Thus would I make my Acknowledgements to your Ladyship, for the Favour of your Letter; and for allowing me the Honour of subscribing myself,

London,
Jan. 16, 1756.

Your Ladyship's most obedient,
and obliged Servant.

LET-

L E T T E R LXXXVIII.

MADAM,

LAST Night, I had the Honour of your Letter. It found me, though recovered from my Fever, extremely weak. My Feet can hardly support the Body, and my Hands but feebly hold the Pen. Otherwise I had sooner acknowledged your Ladyship's preceding Favour.

I HOPE, our WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR will, by these Disorders, teach me to prize more highly that Inheritance, which is *incorruptible, undefiled, and never fades*. *Undefiled*, I suppose, means—Has nothing to cloud its Lustre or embitter its Sweets; has Health without Sicknefs, and Expectation without Disappointment; where Holiness shall neither feel Corruption, nor fear Temptation; and Happiness shall know neither Measure, Decline, nor End.

MAY your Ladyship have this blissful Inheritance ever in View—have a lively Hope of possessing it, through *the Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST from the Dead*—and under the Influence of this blessed Hope, be enabled *to purify Yourself, even as HE is pure*.

You was pleased to enquire, Whether I have laid aside the Thoughts of publishing a little Piece. One Scheme which I had formed, I believe, will

prove entirely abortive. Another, which I had projected, I am still inclined to execute. Which is, to print two or three Sermons, preached on the late *Fast-Days*. These, for some particular Reasons, I happened to take down in Short-hand. As I have seen no Discourses on this Occasion, that were sufficiently *evangelical*, I have a strong Desire, for the Supply of this *one Defect only*, to appear on the Stage.—Will You be so good as to favour with your Advice, and beg of GOD all-wise to direct,

Madam,

Weston,
Thursday Morning.

Your most obliged,
humble Servant.

LETTER LXXXIX.

MADAM,

I AM much pleased with, therefore ought to be very thankful for, your Account of the King of *Prussia's* Behaviour. It is truly noble, and speaks a sincere Sense of Religion. Only I want to have his Religion wear the *Image* and *Superscription* of the Gospel. So that we might truly call it *Christian*. This, in due Time, I trust, will be accomplished; and He will honour the SON even as He honours the FATHER.

INDEED,

INDEED, Madam, in true Religion, CHRIST is the *Alpha and Omega; the first and the last; the ALL in ALL.*—Would any One come to the *FATHER*? It is only by *Him that We have Access?*—Are We accepted *before GOD*? It is wholly in the *beloved SON*, and his consummate Righteousness?—Would We have Comfort now? CHRIST is the *Consolation of Israel*. The Works, which He has performed; the Death, which He has suffered; these please *GOD*, and satisfy Justice; these therefore quiet the Sinner's Conscience, and enable Him to go on *his Way rejoicing.*—Would We enter into the Realms of Glory, and stand before the *Throne of GOD*? Having washed our Robes, and made them white in the Blood of the *LAMB*, We are admitted to this Honour, and partake of this Blessedness.—May your Ladyship grow daily in the Knowledge of this divinely excellent *SAVIOUR*! Because this is the Way to *grow in Grace, in Peace, and in all Godliness.*—I beg Leave to be, with the deepest Respect,

Your Ladyship's most obliged,
and most obedient Servant.

P. S. Will You be so good as to inform me, what Mr. *How* said upon the Subject of Building. A Saying, at which one of your Letters hinted. The Masons are going on apace with my new House. But I have no Trouble about them; having agreed with the Architect, to execute the Work

for such a Sum. The Restoration of my Health, after which You are so obliging as to enquire, is *like the Sun in Gibeon*. I have but just ventured into the Air; never yet so far as the Church. May your Health, Madam, be as the Sun, *when He goeth forth in his Strength!*—I hope for the Pleasure of hearing, that my honoured Patroness, the Countess of *Chesterfield*, is recovered of her Cold.

L E T T E R XC:

MADAM,

YOUR Prudence and your Kindness lay an equal Claim to my grateful Acknowledgements. The Step You have taken, is much more judicious, than any that I could have suggested; and as You Yourself are willing to defray Part of the Expence, is much more generous than I ought to have expected.—May the blessed JESUS fulfill his Promise, and more than recompense all my Obligations! May He guide You continually; give You an established, an assured Interest in his unspeakable Treasures; and *supply all Your Need according to his Riches in Glory!*

My Bookseller informs me, that *Theron and Aspasid* meet with a favourable Reception from the Pub-

lic.

lic. GOD is pleased to give them Acceptance in the Sight of the World. Infomuch that He is entering upon another Edition, though the first was very numerous. See, Madam, if GOD will bless, who can blast? If HE will prosper, how needless are all little Artifices and inferior Recommendations!

I REMEMBER, a very ingenious Gentleman once shewed me a Composition in Manuscript. He intended it for the Press, and asked my Opinion. It was moral, it was delicate, it was highly finished. But I ventured to tell Him, There was *one Thing* wanting. The Name and the Merits of the divinely excellent JESUS: without which, I feared, the GOD of Heaven would not accompany it with his Grace; and without which, I was very sure, the Enemy of Souls would *laugh it to Scorn*.—The Gentleman seemed to be struck with Surprise. The Name of JESUS, He replied! This single Circumstance would frustrate all my Expectations; would infallibly obstruct the Sale; and make every Reader of Refinement throw it aside with Disdain.—Now, Madam, I am willing to put the Matter to a Trial, and myself to practice the Advice I gave. So far from secreting the amiable, the majestic Names of JESUS and the adorable TRINITY, that I have printed them in grand and conspicuous Capitals. That all the World may see, I look upon it as my highest Honour, to acknowlege, to venerate, to magnify my GOD

and SAVIOUR. And if HE has no Power over the Hearts of Men, or nothing to do with the Events of the World; if Acceptance and Success are none of his Gifts, have no Dependance on his Smile; then I am content, perfectly content to be without them.

You chide me for enclosing my Letters to your Ladyship in a Frank. But I promise myself, You will not be very angry with me, on this Account. Nay, You cannot, You must not, be angry with me at all. You must not constrain me to be *unjust*. And what will it be, but absolute Injustice, to make You pay Sixpence, for that which is not worth any Thing? Which is more than paid for, by your Ladyship's Acceptance.

I WISH, Lady ——— may be enabled by Faith to see the *LORD's CHRIST*. That is the only Way to have Comfort in Affliction, and to sing, like the three *Hebrew* Youths, in the fiery Furnace: that is the only Way to depart, like good old *Simon*, in Peace, and with Hopes full of Immortality. Let me wish the same Blessing for Lady *Frances Shirley*; because this is the only Method to sweeten and exalt Life; to make it a Privilege to live, or Gain to die. Permit my Pen to add, what my very Heart dictates, that I am,

Madam,

Your much obliged,
and most grateful Servant.

Weslon,
March 9.

L E T -

L E T T E R XCI.

WHY does Lady FRANCES mention the Word *Condescension*, when She is pleased to honour me with a Letter? Indeed, Madam, You have nothing to do with that Word. It is mine by an exclusive Right. It expresses what You alone can practise, and what I alone must acknowledge.

How does your Ladyship know, that I “speak “to my People an Hour together?”—I must confess, I do so sometimes. But I always blame myself for it. It detains the Congregation too long. It renders the Discourse tiresome to be heard, and almost impossible to be remembered. This is one of the Inconveniences attending the extempore Method of Preaching. We forget how the Time passes away; We advert not to the Length of our Harangue; and, being desirous of impressing our Hearers, are insensibly betrayed into an undue Prolixity.

I CONGRATULATE Mr. K—— on his Wisdom and Happiness, in giving up Himself without Reserve to the blessed GOD. Ah! why should We delay this important Duty? Why should We be reluctant in this delightful Affair?—One Cause of our Backwardness is our stubborn Selfishness and strong Corruption. Another Reason is, that We do not attempt it in the proper Way. We consi-

der perhaps the Reasonableness of it; We urge on our Consciences the Necessity of it; and We labour with our Hearts, if by any Means We may bring them to the Practice of it. But We seldom apply the endearing Motives of the Gospel. St. Paul says; *I beseech You therefore Brethren, by the Mercies of GOD, that ye present your Bodies a living Sacrifice.* Here, the Duty of surrendering Ourselves to the Almighty, is inculcated; and the easy, the expeditious Manner of doing it, is displayed.—We are to present *our Bodies*; not in Contradistinction to our Souls, but in Allusion to the whole burnt Offerings of old. In which, not a single Joint, or the Fat on the Kidneys only, but the Whole of the Animal was set apart for the Victim. So we are to devote, not this Talent or that only, but ALL We have and ALL We are, to the Glory of his Name, and to the Good Pleasure of his Will.—*A living Sacrifice*: not dead in carnal Pleasure, not asleep in spiritual Indolence. But awake and active for our divine MASTER; fervent and zealous in his sacred Service.—What should engage Us to all this? The most inviting and the most forcible of Inducements; *the Mercies of our GOD.* He has given HIMSELF and all his sublime Perfections, to be our Portion. He has given his SON, his infinite Atonement and everlasting Righteousness, to be our Salvation. He has given his SPIRIT, to testify of CHRIST in our Hearts, to apply this great Salvation to our Souls,

Souls, and to make all Grace abound towards Us. All this He has given freely, irrevocably, eternally. — And can We, under the Influence of such a Faith, can We forbear the Enquiry of the Psalmist, *What Return shall I make unto the LORD, for all the Benefits that He hath done unto me?* Such a Faith will overcome the Perverseness of our Inclinations. Such a Faith will make the Work of Resignation pleasing. Between the Mind, actuated with such a Faith, and destitute of it, there is as much Difference, as between the liquid and the solid Metal. In this precious Faith, therefore, may your Ladyship ever abide, and ever advance!

MR. ———'s Pamphlet I have not seen. When it comes to my Hand, I will, without any Disguise, inform your Ladyship, how it affects me on the Perusal; whether with Delight or Disgust. — Let me observe the Humility of the Apostle, in the Verse quoted above. *I beseech You, Brethren,* Though He might command, as invested with the Authority of CHRIST, He rather beseeches. And though he was the chiefest of Saints, He calls the weakest, meanest Christian, his Brother. As You have imitated Him in these, may You imitate Him in all Respects; and being like Him on Earth, be with Him in Heaven.

Your most obliged,
humble Servant.

LETTER XCII.

MADAM,

I BEG Pardon for being so tardy in acknowledging your last Favour. Indeed, I intended to have paid the Debt of Gratitude, much sooner. But sometimes Weakness un-nerved, at other times Business had my Hands.

YOUR Ladyship is obeyed. I will publish nothing as yet. But shall be glad to hear the Reasons, which You have to alledge. These will make my Obedience rational, and the Result of Judgment. Whereas now it is implicit, and the Exercise of Duty.

INDEED, Madam, I know how to pity You, when necessitated to go through Scenes of Pomp and Hurry. To me they would be irksome to the last Degree. I wish, We had the Honour of your Ladyship's Residence at *Weston*. Our Manor-House is occupied by a Gentleman, who greatly dislikes my Doctrine. A Brother-Clergyman too!

THE *Arbour*, You rightly guess, is no Performance of mine. I have not seen the Poem; but I saw an Extract from it, which was very picturesque and pleasing. I fancy, there is one Peculiarity wanting in it, which, I hope, will always attend and adorn, whatever this Pen writes, or this Tongue utters, I mean, the Name, the Grace, the Righteousness

Righteousness and Death of JESUS CHRIST. Without this, I should think every Discourse and every Composition, like the Ring without the Diamond, or the Body without the Soul.

Yes, Madam; I will with Pleasure pray for my honoured Benefactress. And if I forget to shew my Thankfulness for your Favour in this Manner, *let my right Hand forget her Cunning*. And I have the Satisfaction to inform You, that an infinitely nobler ADVOCATE prays for You. HE, who sees Angels worshipping at his Feet, is an INTERCESSOR for your Ladyship. And what is the Subject of his Intercession, We learn *John* xiv. 16. Charming Text! Inestimable Privilege! Methinks, I should not interrupt or divert your Attention, while You are meditating on so precious a Portion of Scripture. Give me Leave therefore to withdraw; only allowing me the Honour, before I retire, to profess myself,

Madam,

Weston,

June 12, 1756.

Your most obliged,

humble Servant.

L E T.

LETTER XCIII.

MADAM,

I HOPE, before this Time, You are acquainted with the true Reason of my neglecting to write by Sunday's Post. It was not, "because I have nothing to say." Was I to address many other Persons of Quality, I should certainly find my Thoughts and my Pen hampered with this Difficulty. But as your Ladyship permits me to expatiate upon Religion, I shall never be at a Loss for a Subject. I have a Fund of Materials, various as the Contents of the Bible; vast as the Perfections of our GOD; and, like the Grace of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, absolutely inexhaustible.

Do not harbour any Fear, Madam, concerning the Propriety of your sending Dr. *Cripp's* Sermons to Mr. K—. They are, I think, the very Discourses which He wants. Especially, if He is inclined to Distress of Conscience, on Account of his spiritual State. I know not any Treatises more proper, or more excellently calculated, to administer solid Consolation. They are, under the divine Influence, one of my first Counsellors, and principal Comforters. They often drop *Manna* and *Balm* upon my fainting and sickly Graces. The LORD JESUS CHRIST grant, that your Ladyship may experience the Soul-cheering, Conscience-

healing, Heart-reviving Power of these precious Doctrines!

THE DOCTOR has, as You justly observe, some Expressions, which seem to contradict positive Commands or peremptory Assertions of Scripture. But these Expressions, when examined and explained, will generally be found to coincide with the *Truth as it is in JESUS*. They are not contrary to the pure Word of the Gospel, but to our pre-conceived and legal Ideas. We have not been accustomed to the joyful Sound of Grace and Salvation—ininitely rich Grace, and perfectly free Salvation—therefore they are a *strange* Language to our Ears. O! that We may more frequently hear, and more diligently read, till, like the *Colossian* Converts, We *know the Grace of GOD in Truth!*

I HOPE, Mr. T—— will prove a serious and useful Minister. He seems, not to dislike, but to relish Christian Conversation; such as the Apostle calls *good*, and adapted to the *Use of edifying*. Who knows, but the GOD of all Wisdom may make his Interviews with your Ladyship a Blessing to his Soul? If the deepest Respect for your high Station and fine Accomplishments can influence, You have singular Advantages on your Side. But these, Madam, You have learned to possess, as though You possessed them not. You place no Dependence on them, but on HIM only, who is the Light of the World; who *has the seven Stars in his right Hand*; and qualifies Ministers for the Discharge of their important

important Office. Do not You remember one of your own Sex, celebrated by the greatest ecclesiastic Historian in the World, who taught even a most eloquent Teacher? Who *expounded to Him*, with much Acceptance and with equal Success, *the Way of GOD more perfectly?*

MR. T—— was right in his Conjecture relating to my Sermons. I have never, since I was Minister of this Place, used written Notes. So that all my public Discourses are vanished into Air; unless the blessed SPIRIT has left any Traces of them, on the Hearts of the Hearers. And though I have many Discourses, that were written before I discontinued the Use of Notes, they are all penned in Short-hand, and are intelligible to none but the Writer.—You will easily conclude, from the preceding Lines, that your Ladyship's Favour, dated on Tuesday, was duly received, as it is gratefully acknowledged by,

Madam,
Your most obliged,
and very obedient,
humble Servant.

LET-

L E T T E R XCVI.

MADAM,

I JOIN my Thanks with your's, to the GOD of our Life and Health, for delivering You from your late Indisposition. May the Hand, that restored, preserve the Vigour and Activity of your Constitution; and enable You to devote every renewed Power, every remaining Moment, to HIM *who died for your Sins, and rose again for your Justification!*

MAY I beg Leave to ask your Ladyship, What Authors Mr. K—— has principally read, and what are his favourite Books? He seems to write somewhat in the Strain of the *Hutchesonians*.—I do not wonder, that People object to Dr. *Crisp*, and such Divines as magnify the exalted SAVIOUR, who sits at GOD's right Hand; but pour Contempt upon the fallen Creatures, who dwell in Houses of Clay: who would represent the divine REDEEMER, as the meridian Sun, and all the Race of Adam, as Glow-Worms of the Night.—There was a Time, when I should have joined, most heartily joined in the Opposition. For then I fought to *establish my own Righteousness*. I would fain be something; would fain do something, to *inherit eternal Life*; and could not brook a total *Submission*

to the Righteousness of GOD. But repeated Infirmities, repeated Sins, and repeated Sorrows, have been the Means, under the Influence of the SPIRIT, to cure me of this arrogant Temper.—It is now the daily Desire of my Soul, to see more and more the Littleness, the Insufficiency, the Meanness of all that is called my own. But to delight myself in the *unsearchable Riches*, and triumph in the transcendent Excellencies of CHRIST JESUS my LORD.—And I do assure You, Madam, that when I wander from this Path, I *stumble upon dark Mountains*; I fall into Briars and Thorns; I lose my Peace, my Tranquillity, my Hope.—If this be the Case, as it really is, your Ladyship will allow, that I have Reason, notwithstanding every contrary Suggestion, to adhere inseparably to *this Way*.

I BEG Pardon for speaking so much of *Self*, that despicable Idol Self. Many, I am sensible, would look upon it as inexcusable Folly and Vanity. But I write to a Friend, the Candour of whose Mind is equal to the Dignity of her Station; who will give me Leave to use the Freedom of an Associate, even while I address a Superior, a Benefactor, a Patroness.

MR. T——t reminds me of a humourous but judicious Answer, which Dr. Cheney (who was reckoned as un-orthodox in Physic, as Dr. Crisp in Divinity) gave to a Person, consulting Him about the Recovery of his Health. “Sir, You are not “bad enough for me.”—None but the deeply disordered

ordered would submit to *Cheney's* mortifying Prescriptions. And None but the *wearry and heavy-laden* will come to CHRIST, or relish a *Criss*.

You make me smile, when You place me in the Pontific Chair. No, Madam; this shall not be my Station, as, I am sure, it is not my Ambition. But, if You please, I will act as your Gentleman-Usher; I will endeavour to perform the same Office for your Ladyship, as Philip executed for those Greeks, who said, *Sir, We would see JESUS*.—They were come to Jerusalem at a grand Festival. But all the Entertainments and all the Diversions of the Season, were to them insipid Things, compared with the Pleasure of conversing with CHRIST, —Wife and exemplary Strangers! May my honoured Correspondent imitate You, in this Particular! Count nothing dear, nothing grand, nothing desirable, in comparison of seeing—JESUS and his Glories—JESUS and his Righteousness—JESUS and his eternal Heaven! And O! may She see all these as HER OWN!

MR. R—— will have at Northampton, a large Church to preach in, and a large Sphere to act in. May his Zeal and his Success be larger than both! I have not heard of the Earth-Quake, which You mention. It is awful indeed, to have the Foundations of the Earth shake, and its Surface reek with the Blood of the Slain. May these Events, and whatever else indicates the Displeasure of the MOST HIGH, teach Us to prize the great
Pro-

Propitiation, incite Us to fly unto the inviolable Sanctuary, JESUS CHRIST!

Weston,

Nov. 13.

Your Ladyship's most obedient
and very humble Servant.

LETTER XCV.

MADAM,

WILL You give me Leave, for once, to indulge a Conjecture, that I over-hear your Thoughts? Hear You reasoning within Yourself—
“Two Letters sent: And neither of them answered! Are these his Expressions of Gratitude?”
“However, I can forgive; and ascribe his Conduct to any Thing, rather than an evil Principle.”—Can your Ladyship forgive me? That is more than I could do to myself, if I had not too substantial a Reason for my late Silence.—The Reason is, what Many might be ashamed to tell, in such plain Language as I use, when I inform your Ladyship, That I have been arrested. Have been in close close Confinement for several Days. And could find None, no not One, that was both willing and able to bail me.—Now, Madam, for your Christian Courage! Dare You risque your Reputation, by taking Notice of a Prisoner? Can a Lady
I of

of Quality stoop to correspond with such a contemptible Creature?—" Yes, You reply. I hope, " I shall always think it my Honour, to acknowledge my divine Master, even in the meanest of his People. I hope, I shall never be ashamed of his Ministers, though they were in *Bonds*, in *Imprisonments*, in *Deaths*.—He was *higher* than all *Heavens*, and has a *Name above every Name*. " Yet, for my Sake, how willingly, how cheerfully, did He submit to be *numbered* with Malefactors; and to be nailed, as a Spectacle of Infamy, on the cursed Tree! Surely then I shall reckon my Character, my Dignity, my Fortune, only so far valuable, as they may bring Glory to his Name, and do Service to his Cause."

To keep your Ladyship no longer in Suspence. I really am a Prisoner; and, in some Sense, the Prisoner of JESUS CHRIST. The Writ that was served on me, is his sovereign and holy Will. The Action, that lies against me, is my Sinfulness, and Mis-Improvement of my Talent. The Officer, that arrested me, is Sickness. And the Place of my Confinement, is my Chamber.—This Representation of my Case, I trust, will incline your Ladyship to excuse my Remissness in acknowledging your late Favours; and incite You to put up a compassionate Prayer in my Behalf, That I may be enabled to bless the Hand, and kiss the Rod, that smites me. I thank the Physician, that prescribes my Medicines, though disgustful and expensive. I thank the Sur-

T

geon,

geon, that has pierced my Vein, and taken away even Part of my vital Blood. Because, I am assured, they intend my Welfare. And is there not infinitely greater Reason, to thank the un-erring and tender Providence of my GOD, who never *afflicts* arbitrarily, but graciously; nor *grieves the Children of Men*, but for their spiritual and eternal Good?

I AM much obliged to You, Madam, for transmitting to me without Disguise, the Remarks made on my Pamphlet.—I was myself much in Doubt, concerning the Propriety of "*Hannibal's* oracular "*Doom.*" Had determined to expunge it; or to have mentioned it, only as the Opinion of an eminent Commentator; but not to have laid any Stress at all upon it. Meeting accidentally with the Passage from Mr. *Ridley's* Sermon, I was induced, upon his Authority, to retain it. Pray, is it objected, That the Translation is improper? Or, that the Fact is of no Weight, though the Translation should be allowed?—With regard to the Change of Sentiment introduced in that Clause, *Blessed be, &c.* I fear, I have mistaken the Sense of sacred Writ: have departed from the most easy and natural Interpretation of the Words; have dropped the Doctrine, which gives the greatest Glory to GOD, and suggests the most important Admonition to Man. I should be glad to learn from the ingenious Critic, (for a Critic He is, and truly perspicacious) what that fine Idea may be, which I have been so unhappy as to lose. I have settled in my own Mind, what other Sense I would propose;

propose; and should be desirous to see, whether his and mine co-incide.

I ASSURE You, Madam, I had much rather see my Errors corrected, than hear my Praises trumpeted. And shall be ready, not only without Reluctance, but with unfeigned Pleasure, to retract my Opinion, and confess my Mistake, where-ever the least Iota or Tittle of divine Truth has been injured by my Pen.—Be so good as to communicate such Animadversions, when they occur in Conversation.

DOES your Ladyship want a Maid-Servant? Or know of any mild-tempered, condescending, serious Lady that wants a Maid to wait on Her? There is in my Parish a young Woman, who, I think, would make in all Respects, a valuable Servant. Very neat and has a genteel Air. Good-natured and perfectly honest. Quite sensible, and has a fine Hand with her Needle, or at ironing. Some Years ago, being out of Place, she lived in our Family, rather than have no Employ. Continued with Us more than a Year, but deserved a much better Place. A better Place she got, and for several Years held. But is now out of Service again. I verily think, she would give great Satisfaction, where-ever she was employed; otherwise, I would not presume to mention Her, in this Manner, to your Ladyship.

YOUR Query about my dear Friend *Whitefield's* Intention, I am not Casuist enough to answer.

Indeed I am quite an Ignoramus in the *Canons*. I should apprehend, in a Land of Liberty and Toleration, none can hinder or hurt Him. Indeed, if He expects to enjoy the Emoluments of the Establishment, He must conform to its Orders. But these, You know, He neither claims, nor covets. If He proceeds, as He proposes, they will say He is a *Separatist*, or call Him a *Fanatic*. This they do now: and this, I imagine, is all they *can* do, in case He puts his Design in Practice.

PERHAPS, your Ladyship is ready to say, A pretty long Epistle this, from a sick Man. If Sickneſs makes Him ſo long-winded, I ſhall wiſh, for my own, as well as for his Eaſe, that He may ſoon recover, and not quickly relapſe.—And I ſhall not ceaſe to wiſh, that the Voice of Joy and Health may be in your Dwellings below; till You enter into the Joy and Honour of your LORD, in the Manſions above. And though I, for my Part, have no Hope of the Former; may ſome Share of the Latter fall to the Lot of

Madam,

Weſton,
Nov. 25.

Your Ladyſhip's moſt obliged
and obedient Servant,

LET-

L E T T E R XCVI.

MADAM,

ASCRIBE it not to Insensibility; ascribe it not to Indolence; ascribe it rather to a deep Engagement in Business, that I have not made my Acknowledgements for the Honour of your last Letter, by an earlier Post. I was so engaged, that I did but just accomplish my Purpose, notwithstanding I took Leave to rely on your Ladyship's Indulgence, and postpone the Payment of my Debt of Gratitude.

So You lend *Theron* and *Aspasio*, Madam! You are not ashamed of such old-fashioned Gentry! Nay, by sending them abroad, You make them itinerant Preachers; and, what is more, You countenance their Message, and avow their Doctrine. May the GOD of all Grace likewise vouchsafe to countenance their Message, and accompany it with his divine SPIRIT! Then it will be no Disgrace to your Ladyship, at least in another Scene of Things, to have honoured them with your Name; neither will it be any Grief of Heart, at least in a dying Hour, to have seconded and furthered their Design.

WILL You promise, Madam, not to suspect me of Flattery? And will You ascribe all the Glory to our gracious GOD? I I venture to say, That

Lady F——s S——y is a better Casuist, has juster Notions of Divinity, than his Lordship of ———. I dare not write the Word at length. I hardly dare specify the initial and final Letters. I durst not mention them. But indeed, with regard to the Purport of Pag. 70. Vol. II. I must appeal from the *Lawn*, to the *Brocade*. And I know, You will not be offended, if I take Leave to refer You to a fine Prayer, suitable to the Occasion, and infinitely important; Phil. i. 9, 10, 11.

I AM pleased, exceedingly pleased, at your very humane and candid Manner of ascribing this Inaccuracy of Judgment, to Haste, to Hurry, to any Thing, rather than deliberate Thought, Well, Madam; if no Body learns any Thing valuable from my Books, I will endeavour to learn *Candour* from your Remark occasioned by them.

PRAY, let me know, what that Term of Honour is, by which the General is pleased to distinguish our worthy Soldier. I shall be eager to know, whether the Report is true, which You heard concerning the General's sudden Death. Such alarming Providences cry, *Be Ye also ready!* O! that We may be looking unto JESUS; confiding in his Blood, and conforming to his Image! Then let the last Enemy come. We have nothing to fear. *There is no Condemnation to them that are in JESUS CHRIST.*

I AM surprized at the Character, which Mr. T—— gave of J—— H——. I thought, I had
been

been looked upon, by my Brethren the Clergy, in a very contemptible Light. I would be humbly thankful to GOD, if He keeps me from dishonouring my sacred Profession. But O! what a Happiness is it, and what a high Distinction, to be enabled to *adorn the Gospel of GOD our SAVIOUR*. May this be the Privilege of your Ladyship's Life and Conversation; then You will have no Cause to regret the Want of a ducal Coronet:—I am an utter Stranger to Mr. T——. Never spoke to Him, nor so much as personally know Him. I can therefore no otherwise contribute to the Accomplishment of your Desire, than by adding my Prayers to your Wishes—that He, and all the Clergy may *preach and teach JESUS CHRIST*; may *spend and be spent* in the sacred Service; may have their Labours attended with a general Welcome, and with abundant Success. And if I pray for Others, You Madam can never be forgotten by

Your most obedient
and most obliged
humble Servant:

LETTER XCVII.

MADAM,

YOU once gave me Reason to hope, that I should receive from your Pen, the History of poor R——. May I take Leave to remind your Ladyship of what, I believe, has slipt from *your*, though not from *my* Memory.

I HAVE been much encumbered with Business, of a Nature which I do not like. Neceffitated I am to build a new House, even though myself am tottering over the Grave; that *House appointed for all Living*. May your Ladyship's Thoughts be on *the House not made with Hands, eternal in the Heavens*. Thither our blessed REDEEMER is gone; there He is *entered as our Forerunner*; and has taken Possession of those blisful Mansions in our Name. And is not this a most engaging Motive to remember them; to have our Conversation in them; and to walk as becomes the Heirs of Glory?

HAVE I not often tired your Patience by the monstrous Length of my Letters? My Thoughts shall now stand in *a white Sheet*, by Way of Penance for the Trespasses committed by,

Madam,

Your frequently offending,

but not quite incorrigible,

humble Servant.

LET-

L E T T E R XCVIII.

MADAM,

IT grieves me, that I have not answered your last Letter with more Speed. Because your last Letter seemed to breathe an Air of Tendernefs and Anxiety, which gave me a sympathizing Pain. The Cause of my Delay was a Disorder in my Health; which brought me under the Surgeon's Lancet, and the Phyfician's Discipline. My poor enfeebled Constitution is not yet recovered. Though, I blefs the divine Providence, I was enabled to give my People the usual Lecture last Night.

INDEED, my Lady, I pity your Situation. I know the Enmity which the World bears to all that is ferious and facred. But *this is the Victory, which overcometh the World, even our Faith.* Faith—of what? Of those two Privileges, which made a Part of our public Discourse, on the last LORD's Day; *CHRIST died for our Sins.* 1 Cor. xv. 3. *This is the Record, that GOD hath given to Us eternal Life.* 1 John v. 11. The Believer, comforting Himself in this Word of the LORD, fays; Though I am a Mark to be shot at by the Arrows of the Tongue, yet, blefsed be GOD, my Sins are done away; the LORD hath laid on CHRIST all my Iniquities; and *there is no Condemnation* for me.

Though

Though the Enemies of Religion would embitter, by their envenomed Reflections, my Portion on Earth; yet, thanks to redeeming Grace, I have an *Inheritance* in Heaven, that is *incorruptible, undefiled, and never fades*.—May my honoured Lady drink deep of these spiritual Consolations! and be refreshed in her Christian Warfare!

WHY does your Ladyship mention some little Impatience in your Temper? Why acknowledge a Weakness and Imperfection? This might lessen You in the Esteem of Others; but it makes me admire and love your Sincerity. Yet I am afraid to trust myself with such Secrets; and shall immediately commit the Letter, as, in Obedience to your positive Orders, I have committed all your other epistolary Favours, to the Flames. Ah, Madam! Who is there, that does not more or less experience, what You complain of? But what is our Remedy? Shall We pore upon our Blemishes, and fasten our Eyes upon our Wounds? This will encrease our Anguish. Let Us rather turn our View to HIM, who was typified by the brazen Serpent. *By his Stripes We are healed*. Let Us look to JESUS CHRIST, the blessed Son of GOD, delivered to Death for these our Faults, and for all our Sins: Consider—not what I have done? What I have deserved? But what CHRIST hath done; what CHRIST hath deserved. Here the glorious Gospel answers; *CHRIST hath done all Things well*, and this is the Ground of thy Justification.

CHRIST

CHRIST has deserved eternal Life; and this, not for Himself, but for Thee.—He that diverts his Attention from this divinely excellent Object, must unavoidably fall into Distress and Perplexity.—I think, if I remember right, You have no *Motto* to your Coat of Arms. Will your Ladyship give me Leave to recommend one? Yet, not to be engraven on your Seal, but on your Heart.—However, I shall not offer to suggest it, till I have your Permission. As soon as I know, that You indulge me in this Liberty, I will transmit the Sentence, together with the Reasons for my Choice.—I am now going to write to Dr. *Hales*, to desire his Interest with the Princess of Wales in Behalf of a worthy religious Man, a Trooper in General Ligonier's Regiment; who has served his Majesty 16 Years, and having a Wife and Family, would now be glad to be dismissed, and to enjoy some of the Bounty Money which is frequently allowed to disbanded Soldiers. Do, Madam, second my Application to the Doctor.

Your most, &c. &c.

L E T.

LETTER XCIX.

MADAM,

YOU are pleased to ask; "How I dare write
 "to You as a Casuist?"—To which Expof-
 tulation I reply; That You must thank Yourself if
 I have been so daring. Why have You been so
 obliging on all Occasions, as to make me lay aside
 even my natural Timidity? Why have You been
 so *condescending to One of low Estate*, as to make me
 almost forget, that the Writer is a poor Rustic, and
 his Correspondent a Lady of Quality?—You see,
 Madam, I mend one Fault, by committing ano-
 ther; I have the additional Impudence, to charge
 my Audacious Language upon your own distin-
 guished Goodness.

LET me beg Leave, *very seriously* to assure your
 Ladyship; that, if I had the Honour of waiting on
 You in Person, I should more frequently ask your
 Opinion, concerning Texts of Scripture. Because
 this Book is your Study and your Delight. Because
 these Enquiries would lead You to consider import-
 ant Passages with more Attention; and such a
 Practice would tend to assist me in understanding
 them, and to direct me in explaining them.—From
 your Answer, I have learned my own Blunder.
 Your Answer, as far as it goes, is perfectly right.
 But I was defective in stating the Case. I did not
 make

make my right honourable Expositor sensible of the Difficulty, which lay before me. This was the puzzling Point; How the Psalmist could represent it, as Matter of *Joy*, that the LORD GOD omnipotent was coming to *judge* the Earth? Is not this the most startling and tremendous Prospect imaginable? — Should it be replied; No. The Righteous are exhorted to be *looking for and hasting to the Coming of the Day of GOD*. To them it will be a Day of glorious Recompence: to them, therefore, it may well be the Object of joyful Expectation.—True. But the Psalmist speaks of *the Earth*. He means, not the few Righteous, that were to be found in it; but the Inhabitants of the Earth in general. Who were in no Condition to rejoice at the Coming of an infinitely holy Judge, who was to try the very Secrets of their Hearts.

I SEE no possible Way of removing this Objection, but by giving a singular or peculiar Interpretation to the Word, *Judge*. Let it denote what the *Judges* of old, those illustrious Conquerors and Deliverers, did for the afflicted Israelites. The same, only in a spiritual Capacity, will the LORD REDEEMER do for a ruined World. Then the Passage will convey the following, truly delightful Sense—*Let the Heavens rejoice, and let the Earth be glad: let the Sea make a Noise, and all that therein is: for He cometh*, not to summon the guilty Nations to his Tribunal, but to deliver them from the Guilt of Sin, and from the Damnation of Hell.

He

He cometh (transporting News! ineffable Grace!) to give Himself for their Ransom; and, by this immensely grand Atonement, to redeem them from all Iniquity; from its destructive Consequences, and from its domineering Power.

I HOPE, poor R—— will have Reason to bless GOD for your Ladyship. Then I shall not regret, that I was instrumental in introducing Him to your Notice.—I am obliged to you, Madam, for lending *Theron* and *Aspasio*. It is like putting the Mite into Exchange. O! may our blessed and heavenly MASTER, at his Coming, receive his own with Usury!—You need not doubt, but my best Prayers attend Lady FRANCES SHIRLEY. And She has no Reason to doubt, She has abundant Cause to be assured, that HE who sits at GOD's right Hand, maketh Intercession for Her. If You please to command me, I will endeavour to prove this from Scripture, and make it as plain, as if She was mentioned by Name.—Permit me the Pleasure of wishing You, Madam, many happy new Years; and the Honour of professing myself

Your Ladyship's

most obliged

and obedient Servant.

Weston,

Jan. 8, 1757.

L E T.

L E T T E R C.

MADAM,

IT was not without some uneasy Reflections, that I neglected, by the last Post, to acknowlege the Favour of your Letter. But I then was, and still am very busy, in transcribing a little Piece, which may possibly see the Light. If ever it should come to your Hands, You will hardly believe your own Eyes. I believe, I must not offer to make a Present of it to your Ladyship, or to any Person; there will be so little in it, that tends to Edification. I sometimes am ready to blame myself for intermeddling; but I had a strange, almost irresistible Inclination. May HE, *in whom are hid all the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge*, fulfil his Promise; and guide the Blind, in the Way which they know not.

THANKS, many Thanks to your Ladyship, for your very genteel Reprimand of the *Doctor*. I hope, it did Him Good, when HE received it; I assure You, it gave me no small Pleasure to read it.

I HOPE, GOD will make Lord D——th *steadfast and immoveable*; enable Him *always to encrease in the Faith, and always to abound in the Works of the LORD*.—May Success attend your generous Endeavours to serve that worthy Man, R——. And may unerring Wisdom direct your Heart, and guide your Hand, in the other Affair You mention. I
am,

am, I may say, a perfect Stranger to Mr. ———. I saw Him, indeed, once or twice in *London*, but have heard nothing of Him since that Time; and should not know Him, if I were to meet Him. He seemed, if I remember right, to be under Distress of Mind, and not to have a clear View of the rich Grace of the Gospel. May I take the Liberty to ask, What the Sin is, with which Mr. ——— is charged? I will then tell your Ladyship, what I have frequently thought to be the Meaning of the Passage, You quote; *There is a Sin unto Death, I do not say, that He shall pray for it.*—Never ask me, good Madam, whether You shall give away *Theron* and *Aspasio*. I shall be sure to answer, like the two Daughters of the Horseleech, Prov. xxx. 15. Or, as the wise Man, *In the Morning sow thy Seed, and in the Evening with-hold not thine Hand. For thou knowest not, which may prosper, this or that.*—I very rarely see Mr. R———. He has so much Business upon his Hands, and his Neighbour so seldom stirs abroad.—I wish, the unhappy Youth in Newgate may prove a second *Onesimus*. That He may see the Goodness of GOD, in giving Him your Ladyship's favourable Regard; but see it ten thousand Times more, in giving his own SON to make Reconciliation for the Sins of the People. May this transcendent Goodness be revealed more and more in all our Hearts! fill Us with Joy; animate Us to Obedience; and sweetly lead us to evangelical

cal Repentance! Permit me to be, amidst the Singularity of such Wishes,

Weston,

Madam,

Jan. 19, 1757.

Your ever obedient Servant.

LETTER CL.

MADAM!

INDEED, Madam, I know not what to say, in relation to your Command, of giving my Opinion a second Time. The Case, which your Ladyship has represented, is enough to make One shudder. LORD, what is Man, if forsaken by thy SPIRIT! O, do Thou *never leave Us, nor forsake Us*; but deliver Us from every evil Work, and preserve Us to thy heavenly Kingdom!

THE Apostle, who was not inferior to the present Christians in Tenderness and Benevolence, says; *If any One who is called a Brother, who has made a public and distinguishing Profession of Christianity, be a &c. with such a One neither converse, nor so much as eat.* Have no Intercourse with Him; renounce his Acquaintance. That He may be brought to a Sense of his Guilt, and return to GOD by Faith in JESUS CHRIST.—If your

U

Ladyship

Ladyship pleases to take any Notice of his Letter, I think, it would not be amiss to hint at the horrid Story; and ask Him, whether He has ever read such a Text, as 1 Cor. v. 11. Then I hope, the Wisdom of GOD will direct your Proceedings, and the Mercy of GOD will heal his Backslidings.

Do You know, Madam, whether Mr. ——— was in Connection with ———, when this dark Transaction came abroad? Does He still associate with them, and is He still acknowledged by them? It puts me in Mind of that very important and very delightful Portion of Scripture, Tit. ii. 11, 12, 13, 14. Which shews Us the evangelical, and the only effectual Method, of becoming pure in Heart, and of being freed from the Dominion of Sin. May this Grace be more and more revealed in your Ladyship's Mind; appearing in all its celestial Richness, and appearing as your own Inheritance!

THE Book You mention, was intended to be no more than a Pamphlet; and I begin to think, it will prove to be a mere nothing. There is in it but little of the Serious, and too much of the Humorous. Which seems not very consistent with my Office, and not likely to bring Glory to my divine MASTER. I believe, therefore, it will, like the Snows which covered our Houses while I was writing, sink, disappear, and be as though it had never been.

WHEN

WHEN You have an Opportunity of procuring Franks, be pleased, Madam, to remember, and then I am sure You need not be solicited to oblige

Your Ladyship's

Weston,

most obedient,

Jan. 27, 1757.

humble Servant.

L E T T E R CII.

MADAM,

FOR FORTY Franks, how many Acknowledgements do I owe! Which are more peculiarly welcome, as I read in them an Expression of your Ladyship's friendly Regard, and as they came, not after a long Delay, or upon repeated Solicitation, but upon the very first Intimation of my Wants. This is obliging indeed! This is acting like Yourself; with a Beneficence as superior and distinguished as your Quality.

Do I say this by Way of Compliment, or to flatter my honourable Lady? Far from it. I mention it, in order to assist Us in taking a clearer View, or rather a better Glimpse of the DIVINE Benignity. Do You scorn, Madam, to do ungenerous or little Things? Do You bestow your Favours, with that genteel and noble Air, which be-

comes your exalted Station? How much more certainly will our **GOD** act conformably to his immensely glorious and amiable Perfections? Especially as his great Decree is, To do all for the Display and Honour of his Grace. How rich then must his Gifts be, infinitely beyond all Patterns or Models; infinitely beyond all Words or Thoughts!

WHEN He gives **CHRIST**, a Portion more precious than all Worlds, to poor Sinners freely—When He gives eternal Life and heavenly Happiness, to poor Sinners freely—When He gives his most blessed **SPIRIT** and all spiritual Blessings, to poor Sinners freely—Then He acts in Conformity to his sublimely great and gracious Attributes. These Mercies then let Us cheerfully and confidently expect. Not because We are, or shall be, *worthy*; but because **GOD** is inconceivably **GOOD**. Because his Justice being glorified in **CHRIST JESUS**, there is no End of his Compassion, there is no Measure of his Liberality.

PLEASING Subject! May your Ladyship's Thoughts pursue it, with much Delight and to great Advantage!—I am called away to attend on other Business. But let me first beg the Favour of receiving, what You partly promised, the Account of poor *R*——; of his Misfortunes; and, I hope, You will be able to add, of his singular Relief by Means of your Ladyship's Interest.—May I also ask to know, how You thought proper to proceed, in the Affair relating to Mr. ———?—The Packet directed

directed to Mr. R——, shall be sent To-morrow. Last Week, He was so kind as to give me his Company at *Weston*. When We talked of our common Benefactress, and wished Her *everlasting Consolation and good Hope through Grace*. In which Wish, though Multitudes concur, yet None more cordially or more ardently than,

Madam,

Weston,
Feb. 19, 1757.

Your most obliged,
and most obedient Servant.

L E T T E R CIII.

MADAM,

I DESIRE to bless GOD, if any Sentence from this Pen has been so happy, as to give You the least Pleasure, Comfort, or Advantage. Were my Abilities equal to my Wishes, or proportioned to my Obligations, the *little* should soon become *great*.—It is owing to the Influence of GOD's blessed SPIRIT, if any Thing that We speak or write, is rendered efficacious. And this good SPIRIT, I trust, He will pour upon your Ladyship more and more copiously. Because, it is said by our Divine MASTER; *I came, that they*

might have Life, and that they might have it more abundantly. Because, it is elsewhere declared by Him; *I will pray the FATHER, and He shall give You another COMFORTER, that He may abide with You for EVER.*—See, Madam, on what a strong Foundation our Hopes are built! To procure for Us a Title to these Blessings, and ascertain to Us the Enjoyment of these Blessings, was the great End of our LORD's Coming in the Flesh, is the grand Import of his Intercession in Heaven.

WE shall often feel our Devotion (as You very properly express it) *benumbed*; and though not really, yet seemingly dead. That is the Time, in which Faith should exert itself. Then We should say with the Prophet; *Behold, GOD is my Salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.* The BLOOD of my incarnate GOD makes me whiter than Snow; in his OBEDIENCE I am completely righteous; and through his Intercession I am eternally safe. Thus should Faith be as an Ever-Green, while all our other Graces are like the Boughs of yonder Elm, in its present leafless and forlorn Condition. This is the Way to have our Deadness enlivened, and to make our spiritual Numbness glow. It is by Means of this precious Faith, that *the Wilderness buds and blossoms as a Rose.*

POOR Mr. ———! I pity his Circumstances. They are certainly very miserable. And abundantly more so, because the Misery is but too deserved. To labour under such Infamy, and have no Consolation

lation in CHRIST! To be a Burthen to Himself, and a Reproach to his Religion! How cutting, how afflictive!—What does He do for a Livelihood! I wonder, how his Wife and Children subsist.—I think, it would not be proper for your Ladyship, to allow Him the Honour of waiting upon You. Yet if I might have Leave to speak, I should be very apt to plead a little in his Behalf. Not because He is *worthy*, but because He is (as We all were, when CHRIST became our Salvation) *wretched, helpless, ruined*. O *Israel*, says the compassionate REDEEMER, *thou hast destroyed Thyself, but in ME is thy Help found*.

HAS your Ladyship seen a Book, entitled *The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification*, written by Mr. *Marshall*; now re-published, with a recommendatory Letter by Mr. *Hervy*? It is a Book, which has been and is singularly comforting, edifying, beneficial to my own Heart; and from an earnest Desire, that it might be made equally or more eminently so to your's, I would venture to recommend it to your Ladyship. The Reading of this Book, I have sometimes thought, is like the Eating of Olives. Which, on the first Trial, are generally insipid, if not disgusting. But upon a repeated Use, they become palatable, pleasing, and delicious.—I return Mr. ———'s Letter, I shall hope for Mr. R———'s History, and beg Leave to subscribe myself,

Madam, Your most obedient,

and very humble Servant.

March 5, 1757.

U 4

L E T-

LETTER CH.

MADAM,

IT is long, since I had the Pleasure of writing to You; longer still, since I had the Honour of hearing from You. My Loss, I hope, does not proceed from your Illness, or any afflictive Indisposition. Engagements, I presume, of the genteel or beneficent Kind, whereby You oblige the Polite or succour the Distressed, have made a Demand upon your Time larger than ordinary.

I WISH your Ladyship a confirmed State of Health, to enjoy the Delights of this opening Season. Now the Year is putting on her beautiful Attire. GOD is sending forth his SPIRIT in order to renew the Face of the Earth. It is extremely pleasing to observe, how the Hedges begin to bud. The Buds, every Day, swell more and more upon the Sight. The universal Green is continually enlarging in its Extent, or brightening its Aspect.—Thus may your Ladyship's Faith in CHRIST grow and encrease. That precious Faith, which brings Honour to his holy Name, and Comfort to the Sinner's Soul. Which regards and treats Him according to his infinite Glory and infinite Grace; as the TRUE GOD; as the GREAT GOD; as GOD OVER ALL, BLESSED FOR EVERMORE.

THIS

THIS noble Faith acknowledges and uses Him, as an All-sufficient SAVIOUR from the *Guilt*, and an Almighty SAVIOUR from the *Power* of Sin. It firmly trusts, that the Death of JESUS has *finished Transgression*, and made *Reconciliation for Iniquity*; that the SPIRIT of CHRIST will subdue Corruption, *renew Us after the Image of GOD*, and animate Us to all the Duties of Religion.— This is Faith; the *Faith of the Operation of GOD*; whose *Fruit is Holiness*, and the *End everlasting Life*. Can I then wish my honoured Friend a greater Blessing, than that this Faith may be operative and progressive in her Heart, as the Bloom and Verdure will soon be diffusive over all the Face of Nature?

COULD I think of a more exalted or more comprehensive Blessing, this should not be the habitual Wish of,

Madam,

Your most obedient,
and most obliged Servant.

Weston,

April 2, 1757.

L E T.

LETTER CV.

MADAM,

PERMIT me to wish You many edifying and delightful Interviews with Lord D——th and his Lady. Of such Interviews, I think, We may use the Words, which I have just been speaking upon to my Family; *It is good for Us to be Here.* Oftentimes, while We are talking, Grace is administred, and the Fire kindles. We have brighter Views of CHRIST, and firmer Faith in his infinitely rich Atonement. So may *the Hearts* of my honourable Friend and her noble Acquaintance *burn within them*, whenever they confer about *the Lamb that was slain*, and the inestimable Fruits of his Blood.

THIS, I hope, will find your Ladyship safely returned from your late Excursion. Not without Gratitude to that eternal Providence, which is about our Path, and keeps Us in all our Ways. Which hath said of his People; *Lest any hurt them, I will keep them Night and Day.*

YOUR Opinion, concerning my Intention to publish two or three Sermons, I acknowledge as a real Favour. And I think, your Ladyship has some Reason to grant me such Favours, because You are sensible, they are not bestowed in vain. Wit-
ness

ness the Design, relating to a Discourse, lately published by our Bishop elect.

I BEGAN to officiate for myself on Sunday; but was much disordered by the Business. Yesterday under Apprehensions of a Relapse. Still it is uncertain, whether the Die will turn up Sickness or Health. It puts me in Mind of that emphatical Expression, and that desirable Change, *Mortality shall be swallowed up of Life.*

WITH the utmost Esteem, and sincerest Gratitude, I beg Leave to subscribe myself,

Your Ladyship's

most obliged,

May 31, 1757.

humble Servant.

L E T T E R C V I.

MADAM,

IT is indeed a delightful Sight, to see a Person of Lord D——th's Dignity and Politeness, closing his Letter with the Name of JESUS CHRIST. May We all know more and more of that JUST ONE! Then it will appear meet and right; not a pious Extravagance, but a most rational Determination, *to count all Things but Loss for the Excellency of CHRIST JESUS our LORD.*

LORD. He is higher than the Heavens, and more illustrious than the Angels; He is the very *Brightness of his FATHER's Glory*, and in Him dwells all the *Fulness of the GODHEAD*. To whom then, may He justly say, *will ye liken me? Or what Likeness will ye compare unto me?* Gold, sure, must be sordid Dust, compared with his *unsearchable Riches*; and human Righteousness no better than *filthy Rags*, set in Competition with his most perfect Obedience and meritorious Sufferings.

I think, I shall never have Reason to be ashamed of recommending Mr. *Jenks*. He is one of those Authors, who, though not so captivating on the first Glance, will be more pleasing and profitable, the more We converse and the better We are acquainted with them.

YOUR Observation, I acknowledge, is very just, with regard to the Writings of Mr. *Adam* and Mr. *Hervey*. Mine are not fit for ordinary People; I never give them to such Persons; and dissuade this Class of Men from procuring them. O! that, accompanied by GOD's blessed SPIRIT, they may be of some Service to the more refined Part of the World! May testify of his Grace, and exalt the divine SAVIOUR; which, I am persuaded, is the most effectual Way to introduce Newness of Heart, and promote Holiness of Life.

To pray for your Ladyship I can never forget, so long as there remains a Spark of Gratitude in my Heart. And I beseech You to remember—ever remember—

member—that You have a better ADVOCATE, than ten thousand of the greatest Saints on Earth. *HE* ever lives to make *Intercession* for You, who is set down on the right Hand of the Majesty on high, and sees all Things put under his Feet. Blessed be his holy Name! He was our SACRIFICE on the Cross; He is our ADVOCATE in Heaven; and He will be our PORTION to Eternity.—Permit me, Madam, to profess myself,

Your most obliged,
and obedient Servant.

L E T T E R CVII.

INDEED, Madam, I did think it long, very long, since I had the Pleasure of hearing from You; and was determined, this Morning, to have enquired after your Ladyship's Health. Blessed be GOD, that your Silence was not owing to Sickness; that neither Pain nor Indisposition laid the Embargo upon your Pen.

BE pleased to accept my best Thanks for your unwearied Generosity to poor R——. Indeed, I believe, He will answer the Character, which your Candour has given Him; and I hope, your charitable Endeavours to serve Him, will not be in vain,

vain. To Yourself, I am sure, they will not. Because, HE has said, who is Truth and Goodness; *A Cup of cold Water, given to a poor Creature, because He belongs to ME, shall in no wise lose its Reward.* May the Love of that most beneficent REDEEMER, be ever warm in your Ladyship's Heart; and ever prompt your Hand, your Tongue, your Pen to every good Word and Work!

You set me a hard Task, Madam, when You command me to say, What should be done in the Case of unhappy ———. Permit me to declare, that I cannot answer this Question to my own Satisfaction. How then can I think of giving an Answer satisfactory to your Ladyship?

Shall I beg of your Ladyship to accept a little Essay, that is going to make its Appearance, in the Form of Sermons? They will be sent, by my Bookseller, to Lady A—— F——'s, directed for Yourself. May I also request the Favour of your Prayers in their Behalf? That the GOD of Almighty Power would vouchsafe to accompany them with his Blessing; bid them sound an Alarm to the Careless, and administer Consolation to the Awakened; bid them testify of his infinitely free Grace, and glorify his most beloved SON. *Whom to know, is Wisdom; whom to receive, is Happiness.*

WHAT will the Bishop of *Peterborough* think? Will He suspect *Himself* to be meant in the Preface? Read it, I presume, He will. Curiosity will prompt Him to see, what proceeds from a Clergyman of his

his own *Dioceſe*. O! that it may not exaſperate, but *admoniſh* Him. I was once, in the Days of my Self-Righteouſneſs, admoniſhed by a Perſon, as much my Inferior in Point of Education and Literature, as the Author of thoſe Sermons is inferior, in every Thing, to my Lord of *Peterborough*.—Upon ſecond Thoughts, I fancy, all ſuch Hints or Remonſtrances will be reckoned utterly beneath the Notice of our great People. They will ſcorn to beſtow a Thought upon them. How then ſhould We admire the Condeſcention of the exalted JEHOVAH, who does *not deſpiſe the Day of ſmall Things!* Does not diſdain to ſmile even upon ſuch low and feeble Attempts to magnify his Name, and edify his People!

Will your Ladyſhip excuſe my not ſending a Frank? And will You, for *your own Sake*, as well as for mine, remember, as You have often done, your impoveriſhed, but

Wefton,
Aug. 27, 1757.

moſt obedient,
humble Servant,

L E T.

LETTER CVIII.

MADAM,

YESTERDAY I received your very kind, and very valuable Present. Hardly knowing how to express my Gratitude, or return my Thanks, for your ready Attention to all my Requests, and generous Supply of all my Wants. May the LORD, *who is rich in Mercy*, enable You to know Him, and imitate Him in this lovely Attribute ever more and more!

FOR the Sweet-Meats permit me to wish, That the holy Word of GOD, revealing CHRIST, and free Justification through his Righteousness, may be *sweeter* to your Ladyship's Taste, *than Honey and the Honey Comb*.—As to the Franks, I humbly beg of GOD, that I may use them to his Glory, and make them a Means of spreading abroad the Savour of CHRIST JESUS's Name.

I THINK, my Bookseller acted injudiciously, in cloathing the Sermons with Black. It has too solemn and melancholy an Aspect. I would have my Discourses on a *Fast-Day* dressed, as our divine MASTER directs Us to dress Ourselves. *Thou, when Thou fastest, anoint thy Head, and wash thy Face.*

IF You do any of my Sermons the Honour, of putting them into the Hand of Sir *William S—e*, I most heartily beseech the Omnipotent GOD
to

to accompany them with a Blessing. That they may not be *as Clouds without Water*, but may drop as *the Rain*, and distill as *the Dew*.

STRANGE indeed was the Controversy between your Ladyship and your generous Neighbour. I hope, You was vanquished, and He carried his Point. If such was the Spirit, and such the Nature of our Controversies, I should be glad to see them become general, and should wish to have all the World set together by the Ears. Then, our LORD's memorable Words would express the *intended*, as they now express the *eventual*, Effect of his Coming; *Think Ye, that I came to send Peace on Earth? I tell You, nay; but rather Division*.

WHENEVER You enjoin me to speak, or to be silent, I trust, You will find me all Conformity and Duty. One Instance, and no inconsiderable one, of my Punctuality in this Respect, I can give. Which is, that of all the Letters, with which your Ladyship has been pleased to honour me, I have one, *only one* remaining. And on that, the Place, the Initials of your Name, every tell-tale Peculiarity, are expunged. This will declare, more expressively than my Pen, how sincerely and thoroughly I am,

Weston,

Sept. 9, 1757.

Your Ladyship's obedient,
and dutiful Servant,

LETTER CIX.

MADAM,

PERMIT me to beg Pardon ; and what is more, permit me to promise myself Pardon ; though I have too long deferred to acknowledge your last Letter ; the Honour it did me, and the Pleasure it gave me. Thursday last was, with Us, so very dirty below, and rainy above, that I could hardly prevail with myself to send my Servant to the Post-Office.

BUT if my best Wishes and Prayers might prevail, this will find your Ladyship perfectly recovered from your late Indisposition ; and *filled with all Joy and Peace in believing*.—It is observable, the Apostle says, *all Joy, all Peace*, is to be derived, not from practicing, but *believing* ; not from any Thing in Ourselves, but from the FULLNESS that is in CHRIST.—From believing, that our Sins are laid upon the blessed JESUS ; and removed from Us, *as far as the East is from the West*. That CHRIST, the LORD of Glory, is *made unto Us Righteousness* : his Integrity and Obedience, his Duties and Graces, his most perfect Deeds and Sufferings, being *imputed* to Us. Infomuch that We stand before GOD, are regarded and shall be treated of GOD, as if We Ourselves had actually performed and exercised all this consummate Holiness. Just as the late Elizabeth, when united by the matrimonial

rimonial Band, to the Emperour of the Muscovites, was no longer regarded as the Woman of low Birth, but as the Consort of the greatest Monarch on Earth.

I BLESS GOD for the signal Mercy, if He is pleased to give my Sermons any Favour and Acceptance. I humbly beseech Him, to make them as a pointed Arrow, that they may enter; as a barbed Arrow, that they may abide.

I am, Madam,

Weston,
Oct. 8, 1757.

Your most obliged,
humble Servant.

L E T T E R CX.

MADAM,

I AM truly sensible of the Honour You do me, in admitting me to such a Degree of your Confidence, and communicating your Thoughts with so little Reserve. I hope, your Ladyship will never have Reason to complain, that I make an undue Use of such Condescension; either by making the Purport of your Letters the Subject of inconsiderate Tattle, or by forgetting the Dignity and Superiority of your Station.

I TRUST, my dear Friend's Sermon will be to your Ladyship's Soul, *as a Dew from the LORD.* Refreshing your Heart, and invigorating your Faith, as the morning Dews revive and quicken the languishing Herbs. The Case of the impotent Man at Bethesda, is too just a Representation of our Faith. Was our Faith stronger; did We *stedfastly* believe in our incarnate GOD; *believe*, that every one of our Iniquities are laid on Him; that whatever He did and suffered for the Redemption of Sinners, He did and suffered for Us—were We *rooted and grounded* in this Belief, how would it cheer our Thoughts, and enliven our Hopes! How would it draw the Thorn from our Consciences, and pour Balm, the Balm of Heaven, on our Souls!

WHILE Wars distress many Parts of the World, and Rumours of Wars alarm almost all the World, may that be fulfilled to You, Madam, which is spoken by the Prophet *Isaiah*; *My People shall dwell in a peaceable Habitation, and in sure Dwellings, and in quiet Resting-Places.* This Resting-Place is CHRIST, his precious BLOOD and EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS. Here I leave You. Here may every Change of Circumstance find You. Then You will be found as safe and happy, as is most unfeignedly wished by

Weston,

Nov 2, 1757.

Your Ladyship's most obliged
and obedient Servant.

LET-

L E T T E R CXI.

MADAM,

I BEG Pardon for being silent so long, and not enquiring after your Health. One Cause was, the Loss of my own. Which delivered me over to the Hands of the Phyfician and Surgeon, to the Discipline of the Draught and the Lancet. Which have, I blefs GOD, relieved me from a violent Cold, attended with a Fever.—I hope, the Divine Providence has preserved your Ladyship from such Afflictions; and I beseech the Divine MAJESTY to grant, that You may long enjoy that Balm of Nature Health, and eternally enjoy that Balm of Heaven CHRIST!

Mrs. Lefevre's Letters I have never seen, and shall most thankfully receive them, as a Present from your Ladyship. Hoping, that as You are pleased to give me the Book, the LORD JESUS will endow You, Madam, with the Spirit it breathes.

I HAVE been extremely hurried for a considerable Time, and all my Family in much Disorder, by removing into a new Abode; in order to have my old one taken down and rebuilt. Nor even yet have We completed the troublesome Affair.

WHEN Lady *Frances* favours me with the intended Present, shall I beg of Her to add a few Franks

to the Gift? These are particular serviceable to me, Because, some of my remote Correspondents are unable to procure them; and I must either furnish them, or else have no Benefit from this Privilege of Parliament. So that I frequently send a Letter, with a Frank enclosed. Which causes a larger Consumption than ordinary.

PERMIT me to select a Promise from the Book of *Isaiah*, as my Wish for your Ladyship, at the ensuing Solemnity; *The Ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Sion with Songs, and everlasting Joy shall be upon their Heads. They shall obtain Joy and Gladness, from the RIGHTEOUSNESS, the BLOOD, the infinite MERIT of their incarnate GOD, and Sorrow and Sighing shall flee away.—* Amidst the Sincerity and Ardour of such Wishes, I beg Leave to profess myself,

Madam,

Weston,
Dec. 17, 1757.

Your most obliged,
humble Servant,

LET-

LETTER CXII.

TEN thousand Thanks to my honoured Lady, for her very valuable, and very obliging Present. The Sweet-Meats were the latter; the Franks and the Book the former. I know not how to express my Gratitude, unless it be by wishing for your Ladyship, what was the Subject of my short Exhortation to my Family last Night; *I will give You the sure Mercies of David.* May this be the magnificent and glorious New-Year's Gift of JEHOVAH, to them, to my People, and more abundantly to You, Madam.

I HAVE not read, only just dipped into, Mrs. Le Fevre's Letters. For indeed I have been exceedingly ill, since I had the Honour of writing to your Ladyship last. So ill, that the current Report was, "Mr. Hervey is dead." This is the first Letter I have attempted to write, since this severe Attack.

BE so good, Madam, as to return my most grateful Acknowledgments to the generous Lord D——th; together with my ardent Wishes, that He may *shine as a Light in the Midst of a crooked and perverse Generation.* Shine before GOD, in the immaculate and everlasting Righteousness of CHRIST: shine before Men, in all the Beauties of evangelical Holiness.

WHEN You mention the Housekeeper's Readiness to serve me, I say; *Whence is this to me?* Doubtless, because Lady Frances condescends to express a Regard for me. And will not Angels and Arch-Angels be much more ready to do Us Service? Will not *the KING immortal and invisible* be much more willing to bless Us? Since the divinely excellent JESUS has owned Us, loved Us, died for Us?

FOR your late, as well as for many preceding Favours, most amiably and politely conferred, I must always be,

Madam,

Weston,
Jan. 3, 1758.

Your greatly obliged,
and very obedient Servant,

LETTER CXIII.

MADAM,

YOUR very obliging Letter deserved a more speedy Acknowledgment; but my late Illness has brought me so very low, and rendered me so extremely weak, that my Hand is scarce able to execute the Dictates of my Heart. I do not go out of my Room till Dinner Time; and then it is rather
to

to see my Relations eat, than to take Refreshment myself.

Amidst all the Languors of decaying Nature, this, Madam, is the most sovereign Support—Free Justification through JESUS CHRIST. A comfortable Persuasion, that *He has removed our Sins from Us, as far as the East is from the West; that He has cast them all into the Depths of the Sea; and will present Us to Himself, not having Spot, or Wrinkle, or any such Thing.* May this inestimable Blessing be your Ladyship's Joy in Life, and Consolation in Death!

YOUR Advice concerning the great People, I will endeavour to observe; and am sorry for the Report, which gave Occasion to it.—Will your Ladyship excuse my enfeebled Hand, if it adds nothing more than the deep Respect and unfeigned Gratitude of,

Madam,

Weston, Your greatly obliged
Jan, 21, 1758, and very obedient Servant.

L E T.

LETTER CXIV.

MADAM,

PERMIT me to pay, my Thanks at least, for your valuable Prescription. My Sister has made the Broth, it is pleasing to the Stomach, and chearing to the Spirits. But I am still surprisngly weak and languid. O! that I may be *strong in Faith, stedfast in Hope, and rooted in Charity!* And not I only, but your Ladyship also.

It is extremely obliging in your Ladyship to excuse my short and dilatory Letters. And more so, to favour me with an important Article of News. I rejoice to hear, that the King of Prussia is a real Christian. Yet I cannot but wonder, that nothing of the christian Spirit appears in any of his Compositions. His late Hymn was written just in the *Taste* of the antient Heathens. And in an Ode, which He composed on the Subject of Death, I do not remember any Acknowledgment of CHRIST or his Atonement, no, nor so much as a Hint at that illustrious Conqueror of our last Enemy. Whose Blood takes away Sin; makes the Soul more free from Guilt, than these new-fallen Snows are from Stain; and thereby Death is unstung. So, and so only, it becomes Gain to die.

I HOPE,

I HOPE, your Ladyship will ere long honour me with another Line ; and, by acquainting me with the Continuance of your Health, give me some Consolation under the Declension of mine. Who begs Leave to be,

Madam,

Weston,
Feb. 4, 1758.

Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

L E T T E R CXV.

MADAM,

YOUR Orders are executed. The Letters are burnt. So—said One, who sat by, and saw the Papers perishing in the Flames—So let our carnal Affections, and corrupt Desires, perish under HIS Influence, who acts as a Refiner's Fire ; who baptizes with the *HOLY GHOST* and with Fire ; who will ere long be revealed in flaming Fire, to take Vengeance on them, that obey not his Gospel.

YOUR Ladyship's kind Enquiries after my Health, demand my best Acknowledgements, and a speedy Answer. I wish, I could answer in such a Manner, as might give Pleasure to your benevolent Heart. But I am not yet able to preach. Have not been at Church since *Christmas*.—Why do I enlarge on this Subject ? Let me observe the Rule enjoined, concerning the Dead and the Absent ; “ Either say
“ Good

" Good of them, or else say nothing about them."
 —Well; there is a Time coming, when We shall serve our gracious GOD, without Weariness and without Intermission, Day and Night, for ever and ever.—On that happy Period may our Eye and our Expectation be fixed. That happy State may We look upon as our own, freely given to Us of GOD, in Consideration of his dear SON's inconceivably precious Propitiation. Thus may We be " looking for and hasting to the Coming of the " Day of GOD." This is the powerful Means of enlivening, what your Ladyship truly calls our dull, and of elevating our earthly Minds. For *He that hath this Hope, purifieth Himself.* The natural Tendency of such Hope, is, to refine the Temper, and exalt the Soul. Somewhat like the continual Influx of pure transparent Water from the Spring Head, after the River has been swollen, discoloured, and defiled by long and heavy Rains.

I SHOULD have esteemed Mr. ———'s Company a Favour. And had He not the personal Recommendations of good Sense and Seriousness, his Coming from your Ladyship or bringing News of your Health, would have entitled Him to all the Respect and Civility I was able to shew.

I THINK, I once saw Mr. *How's* Meditations. But it was just so as the Man, of whom St. James speaks, seeth his natural Face in a Glass. *He goeth his Way, and straitway forgetteth what Manner of Person He is,*

LET me tell You, Madam, You committed a little Mistake, in the last Clause of your Letter. "Your Brother, You say, is as kind to me in *his* Way, as You are in yours." Your Thoughts were in a Hurry. Your Attention was diverted. Otherwise You must have written, as You always love to write Truth, to this Effect—"He has as much Reason to be grateful, as You." And I dare answer for it, the Obligation would have been as readily acknowledged by Him, as it is and ever will be, by

Your Ladyship's most obedient,
humble Servant.

March 12, 1758.

L E T T E R CXVI.

MADAM,

PERMIT me to congratulate You, on the frequent Opportunities You enjoy, of doing Good to our poor Fellow-Creatures. On this also let me congratulate your Ladyship, that You have a Heart to make Use of the valuable Occasions; and, at the same Time, an Understanding to discern their utter Insufficiency in the great Concern of Justification before GOD.—You know, that your *Peace is made, not by corruptible Things, Silver or Gold, but by that which is greater than the Earth; higher than the Heavens; more glorious than the* Angels

Angels of Light, grander than all the Creation of GOD; even by the infinitely *precious Blood of CHRIST*.

You are entitled to my Thanks, as well as to poor R——'s, for every Exertion of your Interest in his Behalf. As the Waters, exhaled from the Ocean, return in fruitful Showers all over the Land; so, I trust, these Acts of your Beneficence, exercised to me and to Others, will return in copious Blessings on your Heart, your Life, and all your Ways.

THE little Piece inserted in the *British Chronicle*, found its Way thither, without my Direction, and without my Knowledge. It was written at the Request of Dr. S——, and by *Him* transmitted to the Press. There is a Passage or two, that wants Correction. But, as it is likely to sink, and rise no more, Improvement is not very material.

It is reported in the Country, that the *Prince of Wales* is remarkably serious; exemplary in his Attendance on the public Worship of GOD; and not intoxicated with the *Circean Cup* of the Court. May I ask, whether your Ladyship hears such an Account from Dr. *Hales*, and can confirm it by such an authentic Testimony.

Your polite Acknowledgements to Dr. S—— shall be communicated in a Ticket this Day; and your manifold Favours to his Friend will be acknowledged so long as He is

Weston,

May 6, 1758.

JAMES HERVEY.

L E T-

L E T T E R CXVII.

MADAM,

I AM glad to hear, that Mr. *Whitefield* was honoured with such Company; and that such honourable Company were blessed with his Conversation. I am sure, He did *not keep Silence from good Words*. May his Words, which He whispers in the Ear in Closets, and *proclaims* as with a Trumpet *on the House-Tops*, be the Power of GOD to the Salvation of the Hearers!

I NEVER saw the Predictions, which your Ladyship mentions. I am, to all such Intrusions into Futurity and their boasted Discoveries, an incorrigible Sceptic.—The Letters of a tender, sensible, religious Wife, written to a Husband preparing for Execution, must, I apprehend, be very affecting. I had rather see two such Pieces, than two hundred modern Prophecies.

WE are now going to commemorate the Mission of the Eternal SPIRIT. Whose Office is, to *purify the Heart* and make the Sinner *holy*. This He executes, by *testifying of CHRIST*; by shewing Us our Pardon and Justification, our Salvation and Happiness, in that most glorious SURETY. Thus He comforts the Soul; and thus *establishes* it, *in every good Word, and Work*, and Temper.—May your Ladyship enjoy more and more of his sacred Influences;

Influences ; and see more and more your Completeness in CHRIST ! This will dispose You, to love GOD, to keep his Commandments, and promote his Glory. Just as lively Spirits and a joyous State of Mind, dispose People to be affable in their Conversation and chearful in their Carriage.

YOUR Ladyship will allow me the Honour of professing myself

Your most obedient

May 13, 1758.

humble Servant.

LETTER CXVIII.

MADAM,

I HAVE received your Ladyship's Favour, and should have answered it before now ; but I have been extremely ill, and still remain so bad, as to be obliged to make Use of the Pen of Another, to inform your Ladyship, that I am,

Madam,

Weston Favell, Your Ladyship's most obliged,

* Dec. 16, 1758. and most obedient, humble Servant.

* Mr. Hervey died the 25th of this Month.



